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Corylopsis pauciflora, Buttercup Winterhazel
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Eucomis ‘Sparkling Burgundy’, Purple Pineapple Lily
Rudbeckia subtomentosa ‘Henry Eilers’, Sweet Coneflower
Schizachyrium scoparium ‘The Blues’, Blue Bluestem
Yucca filamentosa ‘Color Guard’

Cercis chinensis ‘Don Egolf’, Chinese Redbud
Helleborus x Hybridus Pine Knot Strains, Lenten Rose
Ilex ‘Virginia’ – Holly
Agapanthus x ‘Monmid’ Midknight Blue, Lily Of The Nile
Hydrangea quercifolia ‘Snowflake’, Oakleaf Hydrangea
Thuja x ‘Steeplechase’ (PP), Giant Western Arborvitae
Boxus x ‘Green Velvet’, Boxwood
Stokesia laevis ‘Peachie’s Pick’, Stokes’ Aster
Musa basjoo, Hardy Banana

Cercis canadensis ‘Hearts of Gold’, Eastern Redbud

— 2009 Plants of Distinction —

Cercis chinensis ‘Don Egolf’ – Chinese Redbud
Helleborus x Hybridus Pine Knot Strains – Lenten Rose
Ilex ‘Virginia’ – Holly
Agapanthus x ‘Monmid’ Midknight Blue – Lily Of The Nile
Hydrangea quercifolia ‘Snowflake’ – Oakleaf Hydrangea
Thuja x ‘Steeplechase’ (PP) – Giant Western Arborvitae
Boxus x ‘Green Velvet’ – Boxwood
Stokesia laevis ‘Peachie’s Pick’ – Stokes’ Aster
Musa basjoo – Hardy Banana

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EXPERIMENTAL PLANTS CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE VNLA PROGRAM. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF VNLA AND ENCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN US. WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE AND HAVE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO FUND. WE WILL BE HOSTING A NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS THIS YEAR. WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE DATES AND DETAILS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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VNLA 2010 Field Day & Summer Tour
HRAREC, Virginia Beach
September 8-9, 2010

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VNLA Mission, Vision and Objectives for 2010

Mission Statement: To Enhance and promote Virginia’s nursery and landscape industry.

Vision: to become the leader and resource for the Virginia nursery and landscape industry.

Objectives

Educated, Available Skilled Labor Force - GOAL: VNLA will continue to promote programs that will education, train and provide an available skilled labor force.

Effective Communication and Advocacy GOAL: VNLA will effectively communicate among staff, board, members, partners and the community.

Maximizing and Allocation Resources - GOAL: VNLA will secure increased funding from diverse sources and secure the necessary staff, board and committee members to run a dynamic organization.

Membership and Outreach - GOAL: Expand and communicate the value of membership

Stewardship - GOAL: VNLA will promote adoption of Best Management Practices.

Strategic Marketing - GOAL: VNLA will promote itself as the leader and resource of the green industry.

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At the 40th Anniversary of MANTS the mood was positive, but there was one central question echoing through the halls. So where do we find ourselves at the end of the first decade of the 21st century? Back in time to 1999, capitalism had triumphed over communism and the internet made the world’s people both neighbors and informed decision makers. We all ramped up production to meet the demand for this prosperous new age. It seemed that governments had become superfluous, business cycles obsolete, and Moore’s law secured ever-expanding prosperity and wealth.

But then reality set in. Terrorists replaced communists and we became embroiled in hot wars for most of the decade. As scandals like Enron erupted, once hailed business leaders became pariahs and informed decision makers. We all ramped up production to meet the demand for this prosperous new age. It seemed that governments had become superfluous, business cycles obsolete, and Moore’s law secured ever-expanding prosperity and wealth.

The recession that followed reminded us that the world is made up of human beings with the same vices as always: greed, envy, hatred, ignorance, and corruption.

With that experience behind us, we begin the next decade in better shape. In your state association it has meant that we have reviewed all of our financial commitments, traded in old formulas for new and continue to substitute process for tradition. At our annual membership meeting we introduced a budget that was pared down from the past, but still invested for the future.

This month we met with Alan Grant, the new Dean of Agriculture at VA Tech, sharing with him our concerns for a more robust, modern horticulture curriculum and the increased need for outreach through the different extension services around the state. In fact, the Hampton Roads Experiment Station will be hosting Field Day this year in September.

As the General Assembly convenes this week, we have already made comments on legislation that affects fertilizer applicators, water withdrawal permits and water and nutrient management plans, and a host of other issues. We continue partnering with the American Nursery and Landscape Association to promote positive changes in our labor laws. In fact, a bill has been introduced in Congress that has ANLA’s Ag Jobs language.

Thus the cold bucket of reality dumped on our oversized heads will in the end be a positive for us. We will enter the new decade better equipped to handle the future. It is doubtful that we will again have the smug confidence in our institutions, technologies and free markets. The world and our plant market will be what we make of it. To that end your Association stands ready to serve you and help you do your best.

Ed Tankard, VNLA President

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September 8-9, 2010

Hosted by the Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Extension Center (HRAREC), Virginia Beach

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Mark Your Calendar Now!
Letters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all of the VNLA Board Members for approving our $2,200 grant request. It, and previous awards, has allowed us to expand and improve our Horticulture facilities at J. Sargeant Reynolds, increase students’ hands on experiences, and work with some great people at Beautiful Gardens. These funds will be used for supplies for propagation of requested materials and possibly help with the upgrade of our propagation greenhouse. With the help of Rick Baker at VDACS, we are going to be able to upgrade the electrical needs of this greenhouse, and with your help (and the VNLA Board) it will be sustainable. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

David L. Seward, Horticulture Program Head, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Editorial - Bay Milestones

I have attended a few meetings in the past year as a member of the board of the CVNLA as well as the VNLA, regarding the Chesapeake Bay Milestone Initiative that has been put forward by the EPA. What I have learned so far: The Obama administration has tasked the EPA with cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and they have decided to get the job done. The Bay states’ governments have had 25 years to clean up the Bay but have largely ignored the problem so now a newly empowered EPA is taking over. Being a large bureaucracy which is part of even larger bureaucracy, the EPA wants to show that it really has a reason to exist, which in turn will make things difficult for the green industry. Specifically, the EPA is going to attempt to reduce nutrient run-off from the use (misuse) of fertilizers by regulating commercial application of fertilizers in much the same way Virginia currently regulates the use of pesticides. No provisions have been made for tracking fertilizer usage by unlicensed commercial applicators, mower-and-a-truck type applicators or homeowners. What this means is that, at this time, the professionals are going to have to bear the entire burden of reducing nutrient run-off.

Industry response has, for the most part, been defensive. Letters have been written to representatives, meetings have taken place with the EPA, legitimate questions have been raised and possible (valid) remedies have been offered. My opinion about it all is – DON’T HOLD YOUR BREATH. To get a good idea as to the outcome of all of this, one simply has to “follow the money”. Our members are up against heavyweights like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy to name a few. These organ-

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izations take in donations of Gatesian proportions and then distribute it to a long list of government officials and politicians. Never mind that the science behind the Bay cleanup plan is shaky at best. These organizations are PR machines, they want the Bay cleaned up and we can’t compete with them. Any defensive posture we assume will only be used to put us in a bad light in the public’s eye. My suggestion is to stop being defensive – we are going to get reamed – and go on the offensive for a change.

I suggest that instead of resisting and rejecting additional regulations – a fight we cannot win – we propose additional steps and more stringent regulations to clean up the Bay and position ourselves to profit from them. For example, the EPA wants professionals to track and log their fertilizer usage in much the same way as we already track and log pesticide usage. They make no provisions to track and log non-professional usage. We should push for more stringent regulation which includes homeowners and especially the un-licensed commercial applicators. The result is that we will get new business from homeowners who don’t want to be bothered and the un-licensed who can’t afford the consequences of their sloppy practices. In addition, by pushing for the more stringent regulations we will appear to be more concerned with cleaning up the Bay than the government agency in charge of the job. We will be the good guys. I know that this sounds cynical, but how many of you trust the federal government, or any government for that matter, to do the right thing?

But this is only the beginning. There are hundreds of ways to profit from cleaning up the Bay. The resurgence of the EPA should not be seen as a problem; rather it should be seen as an opportunity to open up new markets for our goods and services. To name a few areas that will benefit from the Bay clean-up: porous paving of all kinds from pavers to polymeric soil treatment to geogrids that stabilize parking areas, smart irrigation technology, rain water harvesting, new landscaping techniques and methods, specialty plants with the emphasis on native species, soil amendments for both installers and suppliers, green roofs, green walls, kitchen gardens which can include dwarf fruit trees and shrubs suitable for small spaces. Not to mention that someone will have to maintain all of this stuff once it’s installed. To see the advantages more regulations can have, one needs to look no farther than the building trades. How many people wire their own house? How many people plumb it or roof it? The more difficult the government makes an activity, the more true professionals’ profit.

- Tom Thompson, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

### VNLA – VCH Seal Stampers

If you are a Virginia Certified Horticulturist and need a VCH seal stamp for your landscape plans, contact the VNLA office, we have a source for these stamps. 1-800-476-0055 info@vnla.org

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**VNLA - Meet your Director Sonya Lepper Westervelt**

Sonya was born in Charles County, Maryland though she claims Roanoke, Virginia as home. She is married to Paul Westervelt, also of Saunders Brothers. They have been married since August of 2006. While they have no children at present, they do have an adorable orange cat, Conway, and thousands of plants in their garden.

Sonya attended Cave Spring High School in Roanoke and received her Bachelor degrees at Virginia Tech and her Masters degree at the University of Delaware and Longwood Gardens. While at Virginia Tech, Sonya was President of the Horticulture Club and served as an Ag Ambassador for the College of Agriculture and Live Sciences. At Delaware, Sonya researched the reasons major gift donors support public horticulture institutions.

Sonya is a Regional Sales Associate at Saunders Brothers, a wholesale nursery in Piney River, Virginia. She began there in January of 2009.

Her hobbies are “cooking, eating, vegetable gardening, running, and great music.” Her favorite plants are tomatoes, and Cercidiphyllum, but “really, there are too many to choose”. Her favorite color is purple. She dislikes inactivity and her best habit is smiling. Her dream vacation would be a month in Italy, but that’s just one of her dream vacations. Her hero is anyone who makes something great out of a bad/less fortunate situation.

At the VNLA Annual Membership Meeting in January, Sonya was elected to the VNLA Board and is Chair of the Technology Committee.

Welcome Sonya!

*Edited by Sandy Miller*
VNLA - Professional of the Year Award

Dr. Robert D. Wright
Department of Horticulture

Specific scholarly achievements

Dr. Robert Wright’s research activities have focused on developing nursery/greenhouse production practices which maximize plant growth and minimize costly inputs (i.e., fertilizer, container substrates). Since 1975 to the present, he has published 85 refereed journal articles. His research findings have greatly impacted not only the Virginia nursery/greenhouse industry but the U.S. industry as well. His research achievements have resulted in a stellar national and international recognition and reputation.

Research areas

Robert Wright’s research has served the Virginia and U.S. nursery and greenhouse industry. To put this industry in perspective, “nursery and greenhouse crops represent the third most important sector in US crop agriculture, ranking seventh among all commodities in cash receipts, and among the highest in net farm income.”

As evidence of his impact, in 1998 he was the first recipient of the American Society of Horticultural Science’s Outstanding Achievement in Nursery Crops. He was also the recipient of the Southern Nursery Association’s Henefer Memorial Research Award (1983). In addition to these accolades, Dr. Wright 1) serves as a manuscript...
reviewer for the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science, HortScience, HortTechnolo-
gy, and Journal of Environmental Science (Editorial Board), and
2) served as the Chief Science Advisor to the executive committee and on the Grant Review Board for the Hor-
ticultural Research Institute.

Robert Wright has two main areas of research, container plant fertilization and development of Pine Tree Sub-
strate.

**Container Plant Fertilization**
The majority of landscape plants and all ornamental greenhouse crops are produced in containers. Container-
grown plants are grown in a soilless substrate such as a peat moss or milled pine bark.

His numerous research findings are the basis for current day fertilization recommendations for container-
grown plants throughout the world.

After applying fertilizer to a contain-
er, growers must monitor the contain-
er substrate fertilizer level over time to maximize growth and minimize fertilizer input as well as to manage future fertilizer applications. Dr. Wright has developed the Virginia Tech Pour-Through Extraction Method (VTEM) of extracting the substrate solution from containers. The VTEM has revolutionized fertilizer practices for container-grown plants by allowing growers to easily, reliably, and quickly extract a sample of the substrate solution which then is analyzed for fertilizer level. This method is so reliable and useful that most researchers in the container-grown plant research realm cite VTEM in their journal articles.

Robert has also developed the methodology for extracting the substrate solution from large containers (≥15 gal.) using a suction cup lysimeter, a significant advance due to a trend in large containers use.

**Development of Pine Tree Substrate**
The cost of conventional container substrates (i.e., peat moss and pine bark) is rising rapidly due to the high transportation costs and reduced availability. To address this problem, Robert has pioneered the development of a new container substrate called Pine Tree Substrate (PTS) which is produced by grinding pine logs into chips and then milling chips into specifically sized fragments.

A large greenhouse grower in Virginia estimated that switching from a peat-based substrate to PTS will save his company $250,000 per year. Since 2005, Robert has published 9 PTS-related refereed journal articles (at least 5 others are in the submission process), and has amassed $354,000 for PTS research. He also holds a U.S. patent on PTS.

Robert has also developed a device for root study called a Horhizotron which allows researchers to study the influence of different substrates on root growth. His Horhizotron research has resulted in significantly revising planting recommendation for ericaceous species (e.g., mountain laurel, azalea).

Although he is officially retired, he will continue to work on his research on a part-time basis.

Dr. Wright’s research efforts, guided by his insights and experiences, have greatly assisted nursery and greenhouse growers in Virginia and throughout the U.S.

Therefore, the Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association would like to recognize Dr. Robert Wright as the 2009 VNLA Professional of the Year.

**Previous Recipients of the Professional of the Year Award** (formerly known as the VNLA Nurseryman of the Year Award) are:
1970 - David E. Laird, Sr.
1971 - Daniel Capper
1972 - David E. Laird, Jr.
1973 - A.J. Shoosmith
1974 - Samuel D. Tankard, Jr.
1975 - Arthur Lancaster
1976 - James S. Campbell
1978 - Mrs. Thelma Yeatts
1982 - Ennion S. Williams, Jr.
1983 - Charles Parkerson
1986 - John Machen, Sr.
1987 - John Watkins
1988 - Karen Shipp Kelly
1989 - C. Fletcher Flemer, III
1990 - Jeffrey B. Miller
1991 - Danny Shreckhise
1993 - Wayne Sawyer
1994 - Eddie Anderson
1995 - Butch Gaddy
1996 - Tom Saunders
1998 - Elizabeth Gardner
1999 - Jim Snyder
2000 - Bob Papetti
2001 - Carville Akehurst
2002 - John Tankard
2003 - Tscharner Watkins III
2004 - Mary Williams
2005 - Doug Hensel
2006 - None
2007 - Fred Duis
2008 - Joel Koci
2009 - Robert Wright
The Environmental Affairs Committee is proud to announce Dr. Laurie Fox as the recipient of the 2009 Environmental Steward of the Year Award. Dr. Fox’s work as a Horticulture Associate at the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center (HRAREC) reflects the VNLA’s objectives of promoting the adoption of Best Management Practices and following horticulture standards that cause the minimal negative impact on our environment.

Having received her BS & MS degrees in Horticulture from North Carolina State University with emphasis on landscape design, ornamental plant production, and weed science, Laurie became a Cooperative Extension Service Agent for three years in North Carolina. She then accepted the opportunity to return to her native State of Virginia to be a Weed Scientist at Virginia Tech’s HRAREC. In 1997 she moved into the Horticulture Associate position and began her studies of phytoremediation – cleaning environmental Steward of the Year Award

Dr. Laurie Fox being presented the Environmental Steward of the Year Award by Tom Thompson

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Laurie’s work focus has been on developing resources for the green industry and the public, including; Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) publications on urban water quality management, presentations, workshops, and tours. She is even the publisher and a co-author on the book “Best Plants for Hampton Roads A Landscape and Garden Companion”. Her most successful projects involve creating demonstration landscape areas where industry and the public can see and learn about the principles and practices of landscaping that improve water quality and sustain the environment. Laurie accomplished these projects through strong partnerships and community (many VNLA members) support.

The BayScape Garden is based on the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay’s BayScaping principles which promote low maintenance, environmentally-sound landscape management practices. The garden displays 90 native plants suitable for shoreline habitats. It was created through a partnership with the City of Virginia Beach, and is maintained by the Virginia Beach Master Gardener volunteers.

The Buffer, Rain, and Sustainable Landscape Practices Gardens promote stormwater runoff management through landscape design and plant selection, and support the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act recommendations. These gardens display over 225 species, and actually manage runoff around the HRAREC’s irrigation pond and main building in addition to being demonstration gardens. The sustainable garden also displays 30 different sustainable landscape practices and numerous recycled and environmentally friendly products. The gardens were created through partnerships with the City of Virginia Beach, the VCE, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and local green industry businesses. They are maintained by the Virginia Beach Master Gardener Water Steward volunteers.

Laurie has received a total of $39,470 in grants and $6,870 from donations, and has accumulated over 12,000 volunteer hours through her work. While these figures are significant, the biggest positive environmental impact has been the local, regional, and national attention the gardens have received. Her demonstration gardens have put Virginia Tech’s HRAREC on the environmental education map. People can see, learn, then take home and implement sound landscape practices and become good environmental stewards. Congratulations to Laurie and everyone involved!

provided by Mary Williams, 2009 Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

**VNLA – Environmental Affairs**

My name is Tom Thompson, I own a small landscaping business in Richmond, I am the new Chairman of the Environmental Affairs Committee – and I need help. Or rather, the VNLA needs your help. The Environmental Affairs Committee needs members. Currently, it has only one – me. I’m looking for volunteers who are willing to share their ideas and experience. The committee needs to meet at least twice a year, and since we all plan on being busy this year, I’ll try to make attending the meetings as convenient and painless as possible. Possibly as a conference call.

We have a lot to worry about. I’m sure you have all seen the e-mails going around. The Chesapeake Bay is finally going to get cleaned up after 20 years or so of the state government sitting around and doing nothing. The “new” EPA is taking over and changes are coming. The state is trying to appease the federal government at the expense of the green industry. We can either stand still and get run over or we can think of new ways to do business and make money in the process. How many people vote for making money?

Invasive species are causing problems all over the country including here in Virginia. Some, like fire ants, are painfully obvious. Others are less noticeable and some, like English ivy and *Vinca minor* are more subjective. There are organizations in the state that want to restrict some of the very plants that our members grow and sell. We need to have input into what makes it onto the list of banned plants. Maybe we can even learn about a new niche in the market – and make a little money.

I also need help identifying the concerns and needs of the membership as it relates to environmental affairs. What’s on your mind? In what direction do you want the committee to go? Do you have any questions? How can I help you? I have some ideas but I need to hear from the members – after all, I work for you. Feel free to call me at 804-674-5703. I might answer the phone but if I don’t, you can always leave a message. Or you can e-mail me at naturalartlandscaping@yahoo.com. I hope to hear from ya’ll soon.

**Tom Thompson**

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**VNLA - Beautiful Gardens® Updates**

Now that our evaluation sites are well established with both the physical infrastructure and the firm support and cooperation of our site partners, Beautiful Gardens®, as we continue forward, has been focused on a number of things that will support and expand our efforts to bring new plants and new production opportunities into the system. Each is interrelated, and each is designed to bring revenue into the program.

**Formal Relationship with ISRR**

We are working on establishing a formal agreement with the Institute for Sustainable and Renewable Re-
sources (ISRR) in Danville concerning commercial tissue culture production of new plants that enter our program. During the past few years, they have established protocol and produced plantlets of *Lilium* ‘Jocelyne’s Pink Bouquet’ and of the Hokie daylily, #33, which are both in trials across the state. ISRR is in the final stage of establishing protocol for a number of new hellebore from Pine Knot Farms as well as a number of azalea and rhododendron species that have great commercial potential. Once a formal agreement is established – and our goal is by the end of February - tissue culture production of plants promoted through the program will be a primary means of propagation for liner production.

### Liner Production of Promotion Plants

Whether propagation of selected promotion plants occurs through tissue culture or conventional means, we need a location where we can produce liners which would be sold to participating Beautiful Garden® growers. Working with David Seward, J Sargent Reynolds Community College, and with funds from an existing VDACS grant, we are establishing a link that connects plant propagation to growers. Greenhouses at JSRCC will be used both as teaching and as demonstration facilities for plant propagation, for in vitro to ex vitro transfer of plantlets from ISRR, and as a location for our planned breeder’s workshops.

### Breeder’s Workshops

We are moving forward with the formulation of workshops that will teach the fundamentals of ornamental plant breeding. Developed as a service to provide income and to increase exposure and membership for VNLA, workshops will also establish a means for the development of new plants for promotion through Beautiful Gardens®. Collaborating with the VT Dept. of Horticulture, a “hands-on” breeding program will be established and then promoted through VNLA, Master Gardeners and state extension agents. Our goal is to have our first such workshop this summer.

Lisa Lipsey, VNLA Beautiful Gardens Plant Introduction Program Coordinator, llipsey@vt.edu

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VNLA Photo Contest
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- 6 total per year.
One Grand Prize winner chosen at the end of the year.

Details at: www.vnla.org/AboutVNLA/photography_contest.htm
VNLA Newsletter 15January / February 2010

VNLA - Photo Contest

Rules & Winner

1. The contest is open to any photographer (amateur and professional) except members of Board of Directors of VNLA and their families. Entries are limited to VNLA members and their staff.

2. Each photographer may enter up to three (3) digital images per Newsletter deadline (see #6). E-mail images to info@vnla.org. Include your name, phone number and occupation. One winning entry per photographer per year. You may re-enter non-winning entries.

3. Please e-mail images separately. Feel free to elaborate on any story surrounding the photograph. Photos should be 300 dpi high resolution.

4. All photographs submitted must have been taken in Virginia within the past five years.

5. All photographs must be related to the Green Industry. The subject can be located in a nursery, back yard, or in a landscape--just so it is obviously related to the green industry profession.

6. Deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. on the Newsletter Copy Deadline, which is the 15th of January, March, May, July, September and November. All submissions become the property of the VNLA.

7. Model Release forms are required with each photograph which contains a clearly identifiable person. Release forms are available from the VNLA office, on request, and are also available for download from the VNLA website at Model release in MS Word format or Adobe PDF format.

Judging done by the VNLA Communication Committee. All decisions are final.

Winner of the January/February ’10 Photo Contest

Nasturtim

Photo Winner: Claudia C. Swanson

Dirty Hands Garden Center, Powhatan, VA

“Win $50, submit your photos! Good Luck and Happy Photographing!
VNLA - Beautiful Gardens® Spring 2010 Marketing

Doug Hensel and Rick Baker with the 2009 Plants of Distinction promotional sign and brochures

The Beautiful Gardens® plant introduction program is getting ready its 2nd year of retail exposure.

An expanded list of 25 garden centers with a total of 33 locations across Virginia will participate in 2010. These garden centers will feature our 2010 Plants of Distinction and continue to promote the plants from 2009. These plants are pictured and described on the Beautiful Gardens website at www.beautifulgardens.org where you can also find our list of plants selected for 2011 and 2012.

Each garden center has been contacted several times beginning last fall to confirm participation for 2010 and to provide them with information about participating VNLA growers. You can check the Beautiful Gardens website for a list of these garden centers and remember not to wait for them to call you – call them and expand the order to meet their spring 2010 needs.

Each garden center will be visited in January, March, April and May-June by Beautiful Gardens staff. These visits will provide point of sale promotional materials, help with display set up, train sales staff (and management) about the benefits of participating in the Beautiful Gardens program and make sure plants have been located and ordered. I will be speaking and exhibiting at a number of garden center seminars and opening events this spring on behalf of Beautiful Gardens. This hands-on support of the program does a lot to encourage the garden centers to promote the program through the spring and the entire sales year.

We have dropped the BG tagging of the Plants of Distinction and will go to a generic Beautiful Gardens sticker for each plant. The sticker goes on the pot and the grower tag identifies the plant and its cultural needs. Stickers will be provided at no cost to growers and/or garden centers for application. The stickers are very attractive and make our Beautiful Gardens product very competitive with other branded products. Another benefit we encourage the garden centers to promote is ‘locally grown’. Beautiful garden plants come from local Virginia growers – they are acclimated to our growing conditions providing the customer with an increased level of confidence.

Speaking of customers, we want to expand our sphere of awareness to include designers and installers this year. These two groups have a wide range of influence and need to consider the inventory of Beautiful Gardens plants when creating new plantings and quoting for jobs. They will be contacted along with our planned media releases and presentations.

Finally, I’d like to ask each of you to consider recommending several of your favorite native plants to us for inclusion in our future lists of Plants of Distinction. We have a USDA grant that is helping us for the next two years with this specific area of growing interest. Send your selections to Lisa Lipsy, BG Program Coordinator, at llipsy@vt.edu. Anyone interested in participating in the Beautiful Gardens program as a grower or garden center should contact Rick Baker at rick.baker@vdacs.virginia.gov.

- provided by Rick Baker

Business Plan Summary

Beautiful Gardens® Plant Introduction Program

VNA Horticulture Research Foundation, Inc
12-17-09

- JSRCC – David Seward
  - Will continue to propagate 1,000 plus Ilex Virginia in the spring (they have about 750 rooting now)
  - Are acclimating some of the lilies in a cool greenhouse.
  - Will work on a propagation/tissue culture/breeding training programs if some of the VDACS Demo Greenhouse funding can be used for this.

- Don Hyatt has PowerPoint presentations on these programs that can be used

- IALR – Barry Flinn
  - Will get dates for VNLA representatives to meet with IALR staff to discuss cooperative agreements with the new commercial tissue culture lab and he will send draft agreements to review before the meeting in December. (Tissue culture – one person can process about 2,000 plants per month at the commercial lab).

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R. metternichii

‘Hyatt Form’

R. carolinianum x

‘Crater Lake’
• **Maymont Flower Show** – BG will not exhibit at the 2010 show, but will provide brochures at the Colesville Nursery display and the Master Gardener’s booth.

• **Alex Niemiera will chair the Advisory Committee** for Beautiful Gardens and will establish more communications with the current and new advisors.

• **Plants of Distinction plants** will be announced 2 years out at each MANTS meeting.

• **Executive Committee will meet by conference call** once a month and will handle day-to-day decisions on Beautiful Garden’s direction and activities.

• **Plant patenting** – Jeff will check with Brent Heath about a group that works with plant patenting.

• **BG Plant tags** – it was the consensus to use 4” labels on pots, instead of stick stakes at the grower level, and they would be applied mostly at the retail level

• **Newsletter Column** – Lisa Lipsey will provide a Beautiful Gardens Column in each issue of the VNLA Newsletter.

• **Plant Database** – the committee will research database applications that can provide better database management and reporting of plant material, locations, production/testing status, source, availability, etc.

• **New plant germplasm sources** – Alex will work with Lisa in establishing more contacts with potential sources of plants for testing and possible introduction. More exposure will be given to plant nominations in the VNLA Newsletter and the E-News.

• **The current business plan** was reviewed and updates were made as needed. (see attached revised plan)

• **Redefined job responsibilities** – The responsibilities of the Beautiful Gardens Executive Director were re-evaluated and assigned to the Executive Committee, Program Coordinator and sub-committees.

• **Develop timelines** for major activities and goals: the committee will work on specific timelines for plant introduction, propagation and production time, distribution to growers and availability for marketing.

• **Bringing some new people onto the committees** for new ideas and new energy is a priority. A new chair of the Plant Selection Committee is being solicited to fill the vacant position.

• **Continuing search and applications for grant/support funds** – Rick Baker, Roger Harris and Alex Niemiera will work on identifying potential sources and filing appropriate applications.

The complete Beautiful Gardens Business Plan is available on the website at [http://beautifulgardens.org/About_Us.htm](http://beautifulgardens.org/About_Us.htm) provided by Jeff Miller

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Native Plant Questionnaire

The VNLA Beautiful Gardens® plant introduction program will be including ‘true’ native plants of Virginia in their annual promotions of plants of distinction. **We ask that you help us by recommending some of your favorite natives and by providing us with some background information.** Many growers have already included natives in their inventories. We want to help expand their popularity and use by homeowners, designers and installers because they are great garden plants.

Contact Name ______________________________________________________________________

Name of Organization to which you belong, own or manage that is affiliated with native plants
____________________________________________________________________________________

Contact Information: Phone ______________________ Email __________________________________

What is your involvement with native plants? ________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Where and to whom are you selling native plants? (direct, farmers markets, wholesale to garden centers, other)
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Native plants you recommend for consideration by Beautiful Gardens® ___________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Individuals or groups you recommend that we should talk to about using and promoting natives
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Thank You for your assistance in helping us promote native plants!

Mail to: Lisa Lipsey, BG Program Coordinator, VA Tech Dept of Horticulture (0327), Blacksburg, VA 24061

or Fax to: 540-231-3083

Questions or Comments, contact Lisa Lipsey at 540-231-6961 or llipsey@vt.edu

Add additional sheets as needed
News – Virginia Tech Horticulture Department
January 2010

We are excited about the new Landscape Contracting and Environmental Horticulture Majors. This will be strengthening our teaching program. The Landscape Contracting major will feature a new class that focuses on the business of contracting and horticulture engineering. In addition the Environmental Horticulture major will have options in Sustainable Horticulture Food Production, Urban Horticulture and Ornamental Crops. We are currently submitting proposals for several new classes as part of the new majors: Landscape Contracting, Viticulture (on line), Small Fruits (on line), Organic Vegetable Production and Lab (I and II), and Foodsheds and Sustainability. We hope to have the majors and new classes in place for students who will be graduating in 2012.

Rebecca Dabney, president of the Horticulture Club, reports that the club recently went to the Harding Avenue Elementary school in Blacksburg for a meeting of the Green Club. Hort club members talked to the kids about how trees differ and conducted an ID workshop.

Dave Close and Francis Reilly have a new book coming out in February titled: Smart Yard Care: Big Returns from Small Investments in Stewardship. The book targets homeowners in the wildland/urban interface and incorporates sustainable landscaping principles (reducing, reusing, and recycling yardwaste) with firewise landscaping practices. This is based on work done in the past by Diane Relf where master composter concepts were merged with firewise principles.

Joyce Latimer and John Freeborn recently received $15,869 in funding to evaluate new greenhouse heater technology from Proto-Technics, an enterprise located in Orange, VA. Joyce recently attended the annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Agriculture Extension Agents at the Holiday Lake 4-H camp.

If you have not visited the Hahn Horticulture Garden recently you are in for a treat because there have been many marvelous changes. The garden site was used as a test site for new plant cultivars until the late 1980’s, when we started developing the site as a horticulture garden.

Joyce Latimer has been awarded the Southeast Color Connection’s (Southeast Greenhouse Conference) 2010 Horticulture Initiative Award. This award is given annually to recognize an individual who has made a major contribution to the floriculture industry. As the award letter states, because "you are a leader in the horticulture industry and have touched many lives, the board of directors wants to recognize and thank you for your service."

Alan McDaniel received a Center for Instructional Development and Education Research (CIDER) grant for "Videography" to enhance gains of floral design student service-learning in community engagement."

The Garden Professor Blog, of which Holly Scoggins is a major participant (https://sharepoint.cahmrs.wsu.edu/blogs/urbanhort/default.aspx) was recently the main thread on the CALS Facebook page. The blog is getting rave reviews! Not a friend of CALS Facebook? Go to http://www.facebook.com/vtagriculture andlifesciences and become one!

Susan Day was recently awarded a grant by the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association (VNLA) to help establish a nursery and landscape horticulture undergraduate research internship at the Urban Horticulture Center.

Bonnie Appleton (Preventing Tree Root Desiccation and Damage during Bare Root Handling) and Alex Niemiera (Effect of pine tree substrate storage and lime addition on pH and plant growth) were also awarded VNLA grants.

I am sad to report the passing of Mrs. Peggy Lee Hahn, former First Lady of Virginia Tech and the Hahn Horticulture Garden on December 10. Peggy and T. Marshall Hahn’s generosity over the last several years has made a tremendous impact on the Horticulture Garden that bears her name - from the construction of the Peggy Lee Hahn Pavilion to the Hahn Meadow Garden - as well as in other ways too numerous to list. A terrific gardener in her own right, she has graciously served as the Honorary Chair of the Garden Gala each year since its inception in 2005. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marshall and the entire Hahn family.

Roger Harris, Interim Head, Department of Horticulture, www.hort.vt.edu
Saied Mostaghimi named director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Stations, & associate dean for research and graduate studies

BLACKSBURG, Va., Dec. 7, 2009 – Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has named Saied Mostaghimi of Blacksburg, Va., director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and the associate dean for research and graduate studies, effective Dec. 1.

Mostaghimi has headed the biological systems engineering department at Virginia Tech since 2003. Mary Leigh Wolfe, professor of biological systems engineering, has assumed interim leadership of the department.

In this role, Mostaghimi will provide leadership to the college's comprehensive basic and applied research programs as well as to the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station's 12 agricultural research and extension centers (ARECs), which are comprised in the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. He will also head the college's graduate studies program and foster the development of interdisciplinary research, mentoring, and fellowship opportunities for graduate students.

"I look forward to working with Dr. Mostaghimi to further strengthen the college's existing successes in research, graduate programs, and at our ARECs. The Department of Biological Systems Engineering has been thriving under his leadership. I am confident that we will greatly benefit at the college level from his diverse background, commitment to excellence, and consensus-building skills," Dean Alan Grant said.

Describing his goals for his new role, Mostaghimi said, "I look forward to the opportunity to create a more supportive environment for faculty to enhance their research programs and active scholarship on campus and at our ARECs throughout the state to the benefit of Virginia, the nation, and the world. My hope is to put particular emphasis on promoting collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts in the college and across all other colleges at the university. I have been very close to graduate students all of my career and would like to see graduate education at the college further organized and enhanced so that we can continue to attract the best students and create a supporting environment for them to excel."

Mostaghimi joined Virginia Tech in 1984 and is the H. E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin Professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering. He has been internationally recognized for his outstanding research, outreach, and educational programs in soil and water conservation and in nonpoint source pollution assessment and prevention. His research programs have concentrated on the design of water quality monitoring systems, the integration of modeling and monitoring for assessing the impacts of human activities on water quality, and the development and/or validation of computer simulation models for use by agencies involved in water resources planning and management. His research has been supported by more than $16.3 million in competitive funds. Mostaghimi has published more than 38u archival and conference publications in the field of nonpoint source pollution assessment and control.

Mostaghimi has received numerous honors and awards, including the Virginia Tech Alumni Awards for Graduate Advising and for Excellence in Outreach, the Hancor Soil and Water Engineering Award, and Merit Awards from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is a fellow and long-standing member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Mostaghimi also serves on the executive board of the Chesapeake Bay Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and on the external advisory boards for the biosystems and agricultural engineering department at Michigan State University and the biological and agricultural engineering departments at North Carolina A&T State University and Florida A&M University.

His international experience includes servicing as principal investigator for a multi-institutional project with European Union countries and four U.S. institutions, external examiner for the biosystems engineering department for University College Dublin in Ireland, and program committee member of the 21st Century Watershed Technology Conference.

Mostaghimi received his Ph.D. and master's degrees in agricultural engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Nationally ranked among the top research institutions of its kind, Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences http://www.cals.vt.edu/ focuses on the science and business of living systems through learning, discovery, and engagement. The college's comprehensive curriculum gives more than 2,400 students in a dozen academic departments a balanced education that ranges from food and fiber production to economics to human health. Students learn from the world's leading agricultural scientists, who bring the latest science and technology into the classroom.

Contact: Kerstin Roan (540) 231-0447 kroan@vt.edu
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It seems we are hearing the word “green” everywhere in regards to improving our environment and planet. We are making our homes, schools and businesses “green”. Now we can “green” our gardens and landscapes. “Green” or (sustainable) gardening blends design with ecology. It uses elements and principles of design, xeriscaping concepts, relates people with the natural environment and minimizes environmental impact. It creates a garden or landscape that a homeowner can enjoy as well as having monetary and environmental benefits.

**Elements of design are:**
- line
- texture
- color
- form
- shape

**Principles of design are:**
- accent or emphasis
- scale
- sequence
- variety
- balance (formal and informal)
- repetition
- unity

“Green” or sustainable design uses elements and principles of design to reduce negative effects on the environment.

Greener gardens also use xeriscaping concepts which are:
- group plants with like requirements together
- limit turf area
- install plants suitable for the area in regards to weather and soil
- use water wisely
- improve soil if necessary

**Group plants** with like requirement together. Using this principle, first divide your property into three zones.

Zone one is the area closest to your house and is called the “oasis”. This hosts plants that need more water than rain water might provide and would be on an irrigation zone providing more water than zone two or three. Zone two is the “transition zone”, which has plants that need less water than those of zone one. Zone three is the “desert” area and consists of plants that can survive on available rain.

**Limit your turf area.** For years we have had yards with big expanses of turf grass. We need to change this philosophy. Lawns are high maintenance, require extra water if they are planted with fescue grass and need more chemicals such as fertilizer, insect and fungus control. Bermuda lawns are the most drought tolerant and require fewer chemicals. Reduce the lawn area by using ground covers such as blue rug juniper, Asian jasmine, periwinkle or ivy. Or you can expand planting beds.

**Install plants suitable for your area.** Do you live by an ocean, bay, lake or river? Is your home in the woods or in the city? Is it a new development or an established neighborhood? The climate and the soils are quite different in these areas. If you live by the ocean you have salty wind and sandy soil. Further inland you can have clay soils and colder weather. Property owners by water need to be aware of CBA (Chesapeake Bay Authority) regulations and plant accordingly.

**Use water responsibly.** Water your lawn as necessary, using an irrigation system that turns off when there is an inch of rain. There are now systems that receive satellite signals that will turn off the system when there has
been enough rain. Have shrub and flower beds on zones, again water only as necessary. Drip irrigation is the best form to conserve water and avoid unnecessary wetting of foliage.

**You can collect rain** in rain barrels. You can install a rain garden, a landscape area that is designed to collect rainfall and storm-water runoff. Plants and soil clean pollutants from the water as it flows through the ground. Guidance for designing rain gardens can be found in the Virginia Cooperative Extension publication which is easy to follow. It is publication #426-043. Use mulch to suppress evaporation from the soil and soil amendments such as polymer granules such as Soil Moist and compost to help hold water.

**Improve the soil if necessary.** With sandy soils you may have to add compost and topsoil. With clay soils you may need to add permatill for drainage and compost for conditioning. It is very important that you understand what type of soil you have; the success of your design depends on it. You can buy test kits or send in soil samples to your county extension office.

**Maximize natural resources** such as pleasant views, woodlands, and marshes. If your property has existing trees and shrubs, consider saving as many as possible. Trees can provide a nice back drop for your home as well as save energy on heating and cooling. Use a “borrowed view” should you have a view of a river, lake, bay or ocean. In the case of property by water, the CBA has very strict regulations on disturbing existing trees and shrubs. Check these regulations before any plant removal.

**Minimize environmental impact** by using recycled materials, pervious materials, less electricity, less water, and keeping existing trees and native plants as much as possible. Broken up cement can be used in place of stone when stabling a slope. Trees downed by Mother Nature can be milled and used for decking, fences, arbors or gazebos. Recycled plastic with saw dust has been made into lumber like material for decking material. Broken china or tiles can be used for decorating. To save electricity, you can use solar power for outdoor lighting or low voltage lighting. Appropriate plant material saves water as does the use of rain gardens and rain water.

**Greener gardens by design** are gardens and landscapes that meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. We must look at the design as a way of preserving, enhancing and restoring the ecosystem. We can do this with the principles and element of design, xeriscaping concepts, use of existing plants and views, recycling and using earth friendly materials.

Diane Roselius VSLD Certified Landscape Designer & Virginia Certified Horticulturist

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Member Profile – Snows Garden and Landscaping Center

This Newsletter we are profiling Snow’s Garden and Landscaping Center which has been serving Charlottesville and the surrounding area for almost 100 years. A bit of history follows.

First Generation: Founding a “Market Garden”

The business was founded in 1912, when Leroy H. Snow and his new wife Maggie came to Charlottesville from Upstate New York with their newborn son. They started a “market garden” raising vegetables and garden plants and selling them to local stores and residents. Leroy had previously worked in a market garden, and this was an opportunity to put his green thumb to work with a business of his own.

Maggie’s father owned land on Carlton Avenue, just southeast of downtown, and let Leroy and Maggie use it to plant and raise a variety of vegetables – everything from sweet potatoes to kale. They also raised and sold flowers and vegetable plants. They bought an old greenhouse located on Pantops Mountain and relocated it to the Carlton Avenue lot, where it stood until 1970.

In those early days, the business was simply known as “Snow’s” or “Snow’s lot.” Later, they bought a large house on a half-acre lot on Carlton Avenue for $1,800 and turned it into Snow’s first retail outlet.

Second Generation: Expanding “Snow’s Nursery”

It was a family business from the beginning. The Snow’s first child, Leroy W. was born the same year that his parents started the business – remembered helping to raise vegetables and plants as a young boy, and delivering them to local stores and other customers.

In 1936, the younger Leroy Snow took over the business, by then called “Snow’s Nursery,” and expanded it to sell trees and shrubs along with landscaping and maintenance services – including a large-tree removal and replanting service. His wife, Viola, became the bookkeeper. (They also opened a florist business, and then sold it in 1969.)

In 1950, Leroy W. started the “Snow-Knows” radio program, giving advice and tips to weekend gardeners and do-it-yourself landscapers. The show continues today, 59 years later, on WINA 1070 AM radio every Saturday morning – making it the longest continuously running gardening show in America. Leroy’s son Duane and now his grandson Corbin have hosted the show over the years.

Third Generation: Moving On and Up

In 1970, Leroy’s son Duane graduated from Brigham Young University in Utah and returned home to Charlottesville with his wife Rena to work in the family business. In 1978, Duane and Rena took over management of what was then called “Snow’s Garden and Landscape Center.” In order to continue growing, they relocated the business to prime hilltop acreage that the Snow family owned on 1875 Avon Street Extended.

Fourth Generation: A Big Little Family Business

Snow’s Garden and Landscape Center passed to the fourth generation of the Snow family when Duane and Rena retired. Duane and Rena’s son, Corbin, shares ownership with his business partner Scott Price. Corbin Snow serves as president and Scott Price is president of the landscape department.

Today, the business serves thousands of customers a year and employs almost 50 people, including seasonal employees.

Snow’s has become an icon of Charlottesville and the surrounding area. It is renowned for its landscape design, the quality of its plants and other products, and the expertise of its staff. It stands ready to serve Central Virginia for generations to come.

Their business philosophy has been to offer the best, most up to date, horticultural services and information through continuing our education. They offer a family friendly work environment.
Scott Price is one of the owners and president of the Landscaping Division of Snow’s. Scott has been on ANLA Management Programming Committee from 2005-2009. He will be on the ANLA Landscape Division Board from 2009-2013. Scott is a Virginia Certified Horticulturist since 1992, and has served on the Blue Ridge Home Builders Assoc. board of directors. He has also been on the American Heart Assoc. Board of Directors from 2000-2007.

Scott attended Virginia Tech where he started study in Structural Architecture. He then too and indoor plants class at Virginia Tech and the “rest is history” He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1988.

Scott’s favorite plant is the Oak Leaf Hydrangea and his favorite color is purple.

Scott feels that his best habit is confidence under pressure and being flexible. His admits his worst habit is procrastination. His dream vacation would be to go to Greece.

Scott says that his hero was his father. He never let you see him lose control. He also says that his most significant mentor was Duane Snow. “He gave me opportunities and taught me to never stop learning.” Scott says that his favorite quote is “choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life’. The hardest part of Scott’s day is schedule changes. However the best part of his workday is “being outside and every job is different”. Scott’s helpful hint when handling employees: “Listen first, listen well, listen”. The best advice that Scott ever received was to work a little, play a little and love a little everyday.

Scott says that “when I started, cell phones were cutting edge technology. The pace of work and communication change still amazes me. The industry is much more technical and change in products and services is now constant.” He says that he was encouraged to join the VNLA by his employer (Watkins Nurseries) and has enjoyed every minute of it VNLA encouraged me to be involved in ANLA. I go so much from the organization that I now spend countless hours giving back.”

Edited by Sandy Miller

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News – Haymore appointed Secretary of Agriculture

Todd Haymore with Candy Lindenzweig at the 2008 Arbor Day Ceremony at the Capitol

Appointment of VDACS Commissioner Todd Haymore as Secretary of Agriculture for McDonnell Administration

RICHMOND—Former Governor Timothy M. Kaine issued the following statement on the appointment of Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Commissioner Todd Haymore as Secretary of Agriculture for the McDonnell Administration:

"I'm pleased by the news that Todd Haymore has been selected to serve as Secretary of Agriculture under the McDonnell Administration. As Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Todd has been a principled and compassionate manager who has unfailingly prioritized the needs of Virginians. By choosing Todd as the chief administrator of the Commonwealth's single largest industry, Bob McDonnell is maintaining a wealth of experience in the crucial areas of forestry, agricultural tourism, and farming, among others.

"Throughout my Administration and in a role that has taken him across the nation and to a number of countries around the world, Todd has represented the interests and the spirit of the Commonwealth with both assurance and dedication. In the last two and a half years in particular, he has played a central part in ensuring the proper regulation of countless organizations that impact the daily lives of Virginia businesses and families.

"I am confident that Todd will continue to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth with both integrity and enthusiasm."

Office of the Governor Contact: Gordon Hickey Phone: (804) 225-426

Todd Patterson Haymore

Todd was appointed Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) by Governor Tim Kaine in 2007. The Department is responsible for over 60 laws and more than 70 regulations relating to consumer protection and the promotion of agriculture. It is part of the Agriculture and Forestry Secretariat and organized into four units, the Commissioner's Office, Division of Animal and Food Industry Services (AFIS), Division of Consumer Protection, and Division of Marketing. As VDACS Commissioner, Todd oversees nearly 500 employees in offices throughout Virginia and in Hong Kong.

Haymore is a native of Pittsylvania County, and began his professional career as a Legislative Assistant for former United States Representative L.F Payne (D-5). Following his time with the Congressman, Haymore briefly worked in Danville for DIMON Incorporated, a leaf tobacco company that later merged with Standard Commercial Corporation to form Alliance One International. Haymore then joined Richmond-based Universal Leaf Tobacco Company. He served in various leadership positions from 1999-2007, concluding his time with the company as Corporate Director, External Affairs and Vice President of The Universal Leaf Foundation.

Haymore was President of the Tobacco Association of United States Board of Governors from 2005-2007. A member of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in 1998-1999. A member of the National Association of Manufacturers National Public Affairs Steering Committee from 2001-2007. And he was a member of the Leaf Tobacco Exporters Association Executive Council from 2001-2006, including serving as Treasurer in 2005-2006. He currently serves on the Richmond Forum Board of Directors and the Virginia Tech Victims (VTV) Families Outreach Foundation Board.

Todd graduated from George Washington High School in Danville. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Richmond in 1991 and his Masters of Business Administration Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is married to the former Margaret Cary Lewis and they have three children, twins Catherine Cole Haymore and Elizabeth Whichard Haymore, five, and Lillian Bryan Haymore, three.

Office of the Governor

As Commissioner of Agriculture, Todd Haymore was very supportive of the green industry and we look forward to working with him in his new position. – Jeff Miller

Swearing in Ceremony, Michaele White, photographer
Obituary -  
Harry Johnson, Jr.

Harry Watkins Johnson, Jr., 64 quietly slipped from our grasp January 21, 2010 to be with the Lord after a fearless battle against kidney cancer. In addition to his devoted wife Judith, he is survived by his son, AC Blair Lawrence Johnson, of Honolulu, HI and his daughter, Katherine (Kate) Johnson Wilkinson, her husband Paul Wilkinson, and their children, Parker and Calla of Columbus, OH.

He descends from the earliest families of Virginia. His great grandfather, Samuel Benjamin Johnson, was a lieutenant in Co. C, (The Oliver Grays), 21st Reg’t. Va. Infantry and his maternal grandfather, Mortimer Leaf Arvin, rode with Stuart in the 9th Virginia Cavalry. Harry was a 1968 graduate of Virginia Tech and was a Cadet in the Regimental Band, The Highty-Tighties. He served for many years on the Band Alumni board and marched in homecoming parades. He served on active duty in the U.S. Army for 23 years as a Quartermaster officer, retiring in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel.

Born in Richmond on December 16, 1945, he was the only child of Harry Watkins and Ellen Arvin Johnson of Sandston, VA. He married Judy Isbell, daughter of Lawrence Emmett and Judith Moore Isbell of Henrico County in 1969. Together they traveled throughout the world in service to the Nation. He served a year in Vietnam and they served together in Germany for seven years as well as in Pennsylvania and Virginia. He retired in 1990, only to be recalled to active duty at Ft. Lee during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Following this active service, he returned to civilian status and for 13 years was the Ft. Lee program manager for MPRI, a successful defense contractor.

In addition, he was a member of South Hill Presbyterian Church and an active AA member. He believed that his most lasting contribution to his community was as an active member of the Scouting community for 15 years, serving as Cubmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 877 in Chester, VA.

He had worked with Judy for the last 8 years as a nurseryman at their business, Buckhorn Creek Nursery at North View, Va. He was a Master Mason for 40+ years, was a Past President of Ft. Lee-Richmond Chapter, National Sojourners and Commander of James Monroe Camp, Heroes of ’76. He was a member of the Richmond Scottish Rite and ACCA Temple Shrine. He was also an officer of South Hill Masonic Lodge #297 AF&AM.

The family received friends at Crowder-Hite-Crews Funeral Home in South Hill, Virginia, on Friday, January 22 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

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PADGETT, Carey Judson, 89, peacefully succumbed with family by his side on January 19, 2010. "Apple"/"Poppop" was loved by all who knew him, particularly so by his immediate family. He was a child of the Roaring '20s and the Great Depression, a proud graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School (Class of 1938) and V.P.I./Virginia Tech (Class of 1943). His V.P.I. military class was called out in the midst of World War II, and he became a lieutenant in Military Intelligence.

Carey Padgett was a former President of Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association (formerly the RNA) owner of Garden Gate. He married Miriam Crighton, was sent to Europe, returned home, and was headed for Japan when the war ended. After several years of working for others, he became a business owner. Cavalier Compound Co. and Garden Gate satisfied his entrepreneurial desires until his retirement in 1986. One of his most enjoyable retirement activities was teaming up weekly with his disc jockey grandson for "Impossible Richmond Trivia with Poppop and Charlie" on Y101 FM radio.

He loved life and Virginia Tech, to which he attributed any success he achieved. He lived and breathed maroon and orange, Blacksburg and all things "Hokie." His educational experiences forged many lasting friendships, some now approaching 80 years in duration. Those who are left behind will miss him deeply, but will also smile and laugh at his recollection, and will always love him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Miriam Crighton Padgett; one son, Carey and his wife, Frances "Cookie"; and three grandchildren, Christopher (Lindsay and sons, Brittain and Bowie), Cameron (Whitney), and Cate. He was also predeceased by two wonderful brothers, Samuel F. Padgett III and Howard B. Padgett.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Poppop's faithful caregiver, Alice Flannigan, as well as the nurses and staff of St. Mary's Hospital 6th floor neuroscience unit, whose professional and loving care made his last days comfortable. Services were graveside at Hollywood Cemetery on Monday, January 25, with a memorial at Grove Avenue Baptist Church, where Carey was a member from birth, a deacon and faithful Christian gentleman who loved the Lord. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Grove Avenue Baptist Church, 8701 Ridge Rd., Richmond, VA.

- Richmond Times Dispatch

Legislation - Virginia

Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act 59.1-527. Prohibitions

During any time of disaster, it shall be unlawful for any supplier to sell, lease, or license, any necessary goods or services at an unconscionable price within the area for which the state of emergency is declared. Actual sales at the increased price shall not be required for the increase to be considered unconscionable. In determining whether a price increase is unconscionable, the following shall be considered:

1. Whether the price charged by the supplier grossly exceeded the price charged by the supplier for the same or similar goods or services during the 10 days immediately prior to the time of disaster, provided that, with respect to any supplier who was offering a good or service at a reduced price immediately prior to the time of disaster, the price at which the supplier usually offers the good or service shall be used as the benchmark for these purposes:

2. Whether the price charged by the supplier grossly exceeded the price at which the same or similar goods or services were readily obtainable by consumers in the trade area during the 10 days.
immediately prior to the time of disaster:

3. Whether the increase in the amount charged by the supplier was attributable solely to additional costs incurred by the supplier in connection with the sale of the goods or services, including additional costs imposed by the supplier's source. Proof that the supplier incurred such additional costs during the time of disaster shall be prima facie evidence that the price increase was not unconscionable; and

4. Whether the increase in the amount charged by the supplier was attributable solely to a regular seasonal or holiday adjustment in the price charged for the good or service. Proof that the supplier regularly increased the price for a particular good or service during portions of the period covered by the time of disaster would be prima facie evidence that the price increase was not unconscionable during those periods.

59.1-526. Definitions. As used in this chapter:

"Disaster" means any "disaster," "emergency," or "major disaster," as those terms are used and defined in 140.16, that results in the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor or the President of the United States.

"Goods." "services," and "supplier" have the same meanings as are set forth for those terms in 1 "39.1

"Necessary goods and services" means any necessary good or service for which consumer demand does, or is likely to, increase as a consequence of the disaster, and includes, but is not limited to, water, ice, consumer food items or supplies, property or services for emergency cleanup, emergency supplies, communication supplies and services, medical supplies and services, home heating fuel, building materials and services, tree removal supplies and services, freight, storage services, housing, lodging, transportation, and motor fuels.

"Time of disaster" means the shorter of (i) the period of time when a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the President of the United States as the result of a disaster, emergency, or major disaster. as those terms are used and defined in § 44-146.16, is in effect or (ii) 30 days after the occurrence of the disaster. emergency, or major disaster that resulted in the declaration of the state of emergency; however, if the state of emergency is extended or renewed within 30 days after such an occurrence, then such period shall be extended to include the 30 days following the date the state of emergency was extended or renewed.

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18.2-422 . Prohibition of wearing of masks in certain places; exceptions.

It shall be unlawful for any person over sixteen years of age while wearing any mask, hood or other device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, to be or appear in any public place, or upon any private property in this Commonwealth without first having obtained from the owner or tenant thereof consent to do so in writing. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply to persons (i) wearing traditional holiday costumes; (ii) engaged in professions, trades, employment or other activities and wearing protective masks which are deemed necessary for the physical safety of the wearer or other persons; (iii) engaged in any bona fide theatrical production or masquerade ball; or (iv) wearing a mask, hood or other device for bona fide medical reasons upon the advice of a licensed physician or osteopath and carrying on his person an affidavit from the physician or osteopath specifying the medical necessity for wearing the device and the date on which the wearing of the device will no longer be necessary and providing a brief description of the device. The violation of any provisions of this section shall constitute a Class 6 felony.

- provided by Candy Lindenzweig

News – Farm Bill & Plant Pests

ANLA Applauds Secretary Vilsack, USDA for Release of New Funds to Battle Serious Plant Pests

Washington, D.C.— ANLA is pleased to announce that USDA has allocated $45 million, provided by Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill, for projects in support of critical plant health safeguarding initiatives across America. The funding was announced earlier this week by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Funding will be provided to more than 50 cooperators including state departments of agriculture, universities, nonprofit organizations and USDA agencies in support of over 200 projects. As Secretary Vilsack announced, these state, regional, and national projects will support the Farm Bill goals of building strong systems to safeguard the health of U.S. agricultural industries using early plant pest detection and surveillance, threat identification and mitigation. Roughly $2 million of these funds are being targeted to projects specifically related to the goal of safeguarding nursery production.

“A number of the target projects are relevant to the green industry,” according to Craig Regelbrugge, ANLA Vice President for Government Relations. “We are especially excited that several projects will seek to validate and measure effectiveness of best management practices and nursery systems approaches for pest management and nursery plant certification,” Regelbrugge added. One such project is expected to be carried out in a partnership involving the Horticultural Research Institute and a university cooperator. Other projects of interest to the industry are focused on detection or containment of serious plant pests that affect nursery production and commerce.

The Farm Bill Sec. 10201 plant safeguarding initiative was a key ANLA farm bill priority. Since the bill was passed, ANLA has chaired the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance’s implementation team focused on guiding use of these important funds through a fair and transparent process overseen by USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service. In the coming weeks, APHIS will be working with the more than 50 cooperators, including HRI, who will receive funds as they develop formal workplans.

Visit www.anla.org, government relations news, to view a listing of target projects and a background paper on the Farm Bill Sec. 10201.

For additional information contact: Jonathan Bardzik, Director of Marketing and Industry Relations 202-789-2900

News - Immigration Reform

New Study Finds Comprehensive Reform Best for U.S. Economy

ANLA Offers Perspective on the Study at Congressional Briefing

Washington, D.C. — Yesterday, The American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) shared their perspective with Congressional staff during a briefing reviewing an important new study regarding immigration reform, which was released on January 7, 2010. The study, by University of California, Los Angeles, economist Dr. Raul Hinojosa, looked at three possible immigration reform scenarios: comprehensive immigration reform, a temporary worker program only, and an enforcement only scheme based on deportation.

The study found that comprehensive immigration reform that includes
legalization and flexible future visa programs will result in $1.5 trillion in economic growth over 10 years. By contrast, reliance on a temporary worker program alone would result in significantly less growth, and a deportation-only approach would bleed $2.5 trillion from the U.S. economy over the same 10-year period.

The study and implications were reviewed in detail in an afternoon Congressional staff briefing led by Dr. Hinojosa. Representatives from the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) then provided perspectives from business and labor. ANLA’s vice president for government affairs, Craig Regelbrugge, emphasized three reasons why the Hinojosa study is an important contribution to the national discourse on how to fix America’s broken immigration system.

- First, Hinojosa’s analysis is based not on hypothetical assumptions, but on actual historical experience with implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), signed into law by President Reagan in 1987.
- Secondly, other economic experts with considerably different views and methodologies – notably, the conservative Cato Institute – have reached essentially the same conclusions.
- Finally, the study acknowledges that “getting it right” and not repeating some of the shortcomings of the IRCA legislation requires both a robust legalization program, and a future flexible visa program that can expand and contract with the economy.

ANLA noted that most employers want an immigration and employment eligibility verification system that works, that has clear and bright lines for compliance, that achieves workforce stability now, accommodates growth in the future, and ensures a level playing field.

As Congress prepares to debate immigration reform, Regelbrugge said, “the Hinojosa study documents and affirms what employers have instinctively felt – that a comprehensive approach to immigration reform is the best way forward for American employers, American workers, and the American economy.”

See full study at http://immigrationpolicy.org/special-reports/raising-floor-american-workers

For more information contact Craig Regelbrugge at cregelbrugge@anla.org

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The end of the first session of the 111th Congress came without long-term resolution on several tax provisions, including the scheduled repeal of the estate tax in 2010. Congress was unable to reach a compromise that would have permanently frozen the estate tax with a 45% top rate, and a $3.5 million-per-spouse exclusion. John Satagaj, tax and horticultural law advisor for the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA), believes that it will be difficult to find the 60 votes necessary to apply a retroactive freeze of the estate tax for 2010 at 2009 levels, leaving the tax subject to repeal in 2010, and full reinstatement in 2011. While that might make 2010 look like a good year to leave an estate, extremely complicated rules regarding treatment of the basis and gains associated with estate assets suggest "think again." Congress also failed to come to an agreement on a number of other expiring credits and deductions. The most prominent of the business-related expiring items is the Research and Development Credit. In total, there are more than 40 temporary credits and deductions that are set to expire at the end of 2009, which will be joined by another 70 or so credits and deductions that will expire at the end of 2010. These issues, further complicated by the new tax provisions created by final passage of a health reform bill, promise to make 2010 an interesting legislative year on the tax front.

FIRST COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION BILL INTRODUCED

Reps. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), and roughly 90 other House Democrats have introduced H.R.4321, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for American Security and Prosperity (CIR ASAP) Act. The bill features a diverse mix of immigration system reforms. It would give undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. legal status and a path to earned citizenship if they register with the government and attest "to contributions to the U.S." through employment, education, military service or other volunteer service. They would also be required to complete a criminal and security background check and pay a $500 fine plus application fees. The bill would give undocumented children an accelerated path to citizenship. It would create a Commission on Immigration and Labor Markets to determine the future flow of foreign workers into the United States. The commission would recommend to Congress and the White House appropriate methods for determining levels of employment-based immigration visas. Rather than creating a non-seasonal temporary worker program, the bill would allow 100,000 visas to be issued through a lottery. It also features a number of employer-hostile changes to existing temporary worker programs including H-2B. Finally, the bill includes provisions related to border security, and it phases in mandatory electronic employment eligibility verification. On one very positive note, the bill includes the ANLA- and green industry-supported AgJOBS legislation word for word, signaling that the bipartisan reforms that would overhaul H-2A and provide an earned legalization program for experienced farmworkers are largely a "settled matter" in a comprehensive debate. However, CIR ASAP is seen as a marker bill, not the vehicle for congressional efforts that may begin early in 2010. Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) are working on a Senate bill that is expected to start the process. Discussions in the House are also occurring but are not as advanced.

H-2B CHALLENGES MOUNTING

In mid December, three separate bills were introduced that would make it much more difficult for employers to use the H-2B program. S. 2910, introduced by Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and HR 4381, introduced by House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law Chair Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and House Education and Labor Chair George Miller (D-CA), focus solely on the H-2B program. The "Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity" (CIR-ASAP), introduced by Rep. Gutierrez (D-IL) and other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, also includes hostile changes to the H-2B program. Among other things, the bills would require employers to pay significantly higher wages to their H-2B workers, and to American workers who hold similar jobs. The bills would also require employers to certify that they have not laid-off any American workers, involve labor unions in the recruitment process, increase fines and penalties, and give H-2B workers access to the Legal Services Corporation. The bills do not provide any reform of the H-2B cap. The H-2B-specific bills are not likely to pass as currently written, but signal program changes that will be sought by "Labor Democrats" as Congress considers comprehensive immigration reform.

DHS CHIEF: "THE 1-9 AUDITS WILL CONTINUE"

Anyone who expected the change in administrations to mean and end to immigration enforcement should think again! While tactics have...
shifted from high-profile raids to employer I-9 audits, employment-based immigration enforcement is taking place at a record clip. Last summer, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated a record almost 700 employer I-9 audits. Then late in 2009, another 1000 audits were announced.

Employers whose I-9 records and practices are in good shape are likely to avoid fines, but may face the economic and humanitarian disaster of having to terminate experienced and trustworthy workers, with little guarantee that their skills can be replaced. The American Nursery & Landscape Association recently met with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to discuss the situation. She made it clear that while DHS believes Congress needs to revamp the nation's immigration system, until they do, employment-based enforcement will continue, and smart employers will prepare accordingly. Guidance is posted at www.ANLA.org.

**PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM DIALOGUE SIGNALS CHANGES AFOOT**

In mid-December, USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service held a two-day review of the Phytophthora ramorum program. _P. ramorum_, the pathogen associated with the "sudden oak death" phenomenon in coastal California and extreme southwestern Oregon, has been a hot button issue for federal and state regulators - and the nursery industry - for several years.

It's a classic bad news-good news story. The bad news is that the pathogen ever got here in the first place, has contributed to death of trees in susceptible areas, and in addition to spreading naturally, has moved associated with nursery commerce. The good news is that the federal regulatory program fully in place since 2005 has dramatically improved the situation, with detections of the pathogen in nurseries declining dramatically. More bad news, though, is that it is occasionally being detected in nurseries and on nursery shipments moving in commerce. And more good news, steady progress has been made on researching production and sanitation practices that minimize risk.

Who really cares, anyway? Couldn't the industry manage _P. ramorum_ just like other Phytophthoras? Most would say yes. Is the risk really that big, big enough to justify the effort? The sad reality is, we just don't know. And the uncertainty has forestry officials in many parts of the country, and particularly the East and South-east, concerned about the risks that they see the nursery trade posing to forest resources.

Much of the USDA meeting focused on work that has been accomplished to date on "best practices" for keeping _P. ramorum_ out of nurseries, and limiting spread if it gets in. Many such practices - like segregating and testing propagative material acquired...
from outside the nursery, and good sanitation - are not new ideas, but can be part of the solution. To get an idea of how best practices might contribute to "systems" for prevention of spread of P. ramorum and other like diseases, take a look at this document developed and published by the Horticultural Research Institute: Voluntary Industry Best Management Practices for Phytophthora ramorum Introduction or Establishment in Nursery Operations - Version 1.0. A disease prevention system, subject to audit by federal and state inspectors, may evolve to become the "ticket to play" for growers across the country who ship P. ramorum hosts interstate. Other urgent needs discussed in the meeting included:

- Reviewing and revising Quarantine 37 to address the threat of this and other pathogens coming on imported plants;
- Rapid and inexpensive field diagnostic tools;
- Better methods for treating soil substrate to eradicate pathogens.

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News – Vegetated Retaining Wall System Award

Maryland’s Innovative Technology Seed Capital Fund Awarded To Furbish Company For Its Vegetated Retaining Wall System

BALTIMORE, January 14, 2010 – Baltimore-based Furbish Company announces that its latest addition to the company’s line of sustainable products and services, SmartSlope, a vegetated living retaining wall system, has been recognized for its innovation and contributions that improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Chesapeake Bay Seed Capital Fund, administered by the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute (Mtech), a unit of the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, has awarded Furbish Company $81K. Fund recipients are jointly selected by Mtech and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The fund invests $250K annually, this year awarding $81K to SmartSlope. Previous fund recipients include Traffax and Zymetis. The goal of the fund is to accelerate the flow of capital to innovative ventures creating sustainable solutions to restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources promotes natural living shorelines wherever conditions allow; SmartSlope features make it the next best alternative when lower impact alternatives don’t offer sufficient structural capacity. Selected in part due to its ecological features, SmartSlope easily demonstrated the qualities of a sustainable solution, where concrete non-vegetated walls are traditionally used SmartSlope is an eco-conscious option, one that makes a considerable contribution to the environment.

Furbish Company, the parent company, makes certain that the modules are made with post-consumer recycled materials that use 50 percent less concrete than traditional retaining walls, helping to reduce heat island effects and storm water runoff while creating urban habitats. Erosion control and nutrient absorption are also increased, and SmartSlope’s local production can contribute to LEED points being earned on projects. Their key innovation is the ability to create the concrete modules locally and cost-effectively, eliminating the need to transport the heavy components long distances.

The award will be used by Furbish Company to accelerate initial market penetration in the mid-Atlantic region. The Furbish Company designs, sells, installs, and maintains the vegetated retaining wall system, and believes the development of SmartSlope has revolutionized living retaining wall technology.

“We looked at SmartSlope as a business investment for the state of Maryland in addition to its positive environmental impact on the Chesapeake Bay,” said Jim Chung, Director of the Mtech Venture Accelerator Program.

“It’s an investment with both an economic and environmental return that will enable us to continue supporting additional emerging companies with innovative green technologies.”

SmartSlope is currently available in the mid-Atlantic region, and has plans to expand nationally. Visit www.smartslope.com for additional information and availability, and follow @SmartSlope on Twitter for product and project updates.

SmartSlope – Recognized for its Unique Innovation and Contributions to the Environment
- provided by Jimmy Dick, Furbish Company, exhibitor at the 2009 VNLA Field Day and Green Roof demo at the AHS River Farm on the VNLA2009 Summer Tour

443-874-7465, jdick@furbishco.com
www.smartslope.com
From the VDACS Plant Pathology Laboratory

In 2009, staff in the Office of Plant and Pest Services (OPPS) at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) conducted surveys for plant diseases that pose economic, regulatory and plant health concerns to Virginia’s nursery and landscape industries. Two of the diseases targeted in the surveys were Ramorum blight (Sudden Oak Death - SOD) caused by Phytophthora ramorum and Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR) caused by Puccinia horiana.

Ramorum Blights

Fig 1: Rhododendron leaves displaying P. ramorum-like symptoms. Note lesions on mid-rib., leaf tip and/or petiole. Several species of Phytophthora cause these types of symptoms. Symptoms may develop anytime during the year. Suspect leaf samples should be sent for diagnostic testing at the VDACS plant pathology laboratory.

VDACS nursery inspectors surveyed containerized and field grown high-risk host genera such as Rhododendron, Camellia, Pieris, Kalmia and Viburnum for P. ramorum-like symptoms during annual nursery inspections at wholesale, retail and production sites. In addition, urban streams and nursery runoff water was collected and tested. Symptomatic plant and water samples from across the state were analyzed using culture, ELISA, and DNA technology at VDACS’ Plant Pathology Laboratory; all samples tested negative for Phytophthora ramorum, which is good news for Virginia as nine other Eastern states had positive detections of P. ramorum on ornamental nursery stock in 2009. P. ramorum poses potential health threats to major forest

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Suspect plant material should be sent to the VDACS Plant Pathology Laboratory at 600 N. 5th Street, Room 229, Richmond, VA 23219. Foliage samples should be sent double-bagged in zip lock plastic bags, labeled with nursery name and contact information, and mailed in sturdy envelopes or crushproof boxes.

Please call the VDACS’ Plant Pathology Laboratory at (804) 371-5086 if you would like more guidance on submitting diagnostic samples.

Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR)

Fig 2: CWR “pustules” on chrysanthemum leaves. Be on the look out for these signs in the fall of 2010. Call 804-371-5086 to report suspect plants.

During nursery inspections conducted in 2009, thousands of mums across Virginia were surveyed for CWR. On September 24th, 2009, a VDACS nursery inspector found CWR on chrysanthemums at a retail nursery. VDACS and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) laboratories confirmed the samples as positive for CWR on September 28th. This was the first officially confirmed report of this plant disease in Virginia. VDACS conducted trace forward investigations which lead to CWR finds at three additional retail nursery sites. All symptomatic plants and those associated with the symptomatic plants were destroyed.

Fig 3: Microscopic view of teliospores from CWR pustules. Teliospores develop basidiospores during high humidity which cause new infections to surrounding plants.

Like Ramorum blight, CWR is a USDA quarantined plant pathogen that poses a potential trade barrier to Virginia growers of host plant material. The disease also poses a risk of increased management costs if introduced into the Commonwealth, as control of this pathogen requires weekly fungicide applications. VDACS will continue monitoring efforts for CWR in 2010.

By: Norman L. Dart, State Plant Pathologist Con-Norman.Dart@vdacs.virginia.gov


News - NRF Forecasts 2.5% Increase in Retail Sales for 2010

-More Jobs, Better Housing Market to Boost Consumer Confidence- Washington, January 26, 2010 – The National Retail Federation released its 2010 economic forecast today, project- ing retail industry sales (which exclude automobiles, gas stations, and restaurants) will increase 2.5 percent from last year. According to its bi-monthly Retail Sales Outlook, influential economic indicators such as the housing market and employment are beginning to show positive signs, which will bolster consumer confidence throughout the year. Total industry retail sales for 2009 declined 2.5 percent.

“As we continue to see signs of improvement throughout the U.S economy in 2010, overall sentiment will begin to lift, making way for slight increases in consumer spending,” said NRF Chief Economist Rosalind Wells. “While we still expect shoppers to continue to be frugal with their discretionary spending, retailers will soon be able to reap the benefits of leaner, smarter inventories and a year and a half of pent up consumer demand.”

Other positive economic contributions will come from trade, especially strong exports, a turnaround in the inventory cycle, and federal government spending. Consumer spending will lag behind overall economic growth, Wells estimates, but will continue to expand at a modest 2.0 – 2.5 percent rate.

The National Retail Federation is the world's largest retail trade association, with membership that comprises all retail formats and channels of distribution including department, specialty, discount, catalog, Internet, independent stores, chain restaurants, drug stores and grocery stores as well as the industry’s key trading partners of retail goods and services. NRF represents an industry with more than 1.6 million U.S. retail establishments, more than 24 million employees - about one in five American workers.

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Tips - Building Rapport with Callers

Name? Account number? Zip code? Mother's maiden name? Sounds like a scene from a prison movie, doesn't it? Well, it's not. It's the start of an average call in many a call center. Why? In most cases, the call center agent hasn't been shown another way to answer a call.

This next story illustrates why it's important for agents to gather information from callers without sounding like Wanda the Witch or Warren the Warden!

My wallet was stolen a few months ago. Fortunately, I remembered the names of the credit cards I was carrying. Unfortunately, my wallet with all the credit cards also had my checkbook.

With this in mind, I picked up the phone and made my first call to one of the credit card companies. "Hi, my name is Nancy Friedman," I said. "I'm in Orlando, Florida, and my wallet with all my credit cards has just been stolen and I wanted to report it right away."

"NAME?" said the agent with the voice of a warden.

I always give my name up front, as I had this time. Obviously, the agent who answered the phone didn't hear.
it, didn't write it down or didn't remember it. So I repeated my name and spelled it for her.

"ACCOUNT NUMBER?" the agent continued.

I thought one of us had better have a sense of humor, and I could tell it wasn't coming from the other end, so I said, "Well, I have my phone number, address and birthday memorized. I never got around to memorizing all my credit card numbers, and if you recall, my wallet with that information was stolen."

Dead silence. Then I heard, "PHONE NUMBER?"

Well, it went downhill from there. I won't burden you with the rest of the conversation. Suffice to say, I was disappointed. There wasn't one word of empathy from this agent. She sure didn't have what I refer to as the 'care gene.' She had a job to do and by gosh, she was going to do it - and in record time, too.

I had six credit cards in my wallet. When I called to report the loss of each one of them, none of the credit card companies acknowledged my problem. It was hard for me to believe, too. Probably the worst experience I had was when I called the bank concerning my checks. When I told my saga to the bank, the woman I spoke with asked the questions as though I had been the one who stole the wallet.

What does the behavior of the agents at the bank and the credit card companies say to me, the customer? It says that maybe I should take my business somewhere else.

To keep customers satisfied and loyal to your company, it is crucial that an agent build rapport with every customer at the beginning of each call, whether the customer is calling to discuss a problem, a concern or an inconvenience.

The agent who answers the call should acknowledge what the customer is saying and use the same words that the customer says, as in the following example:

Caller: "I just lost my wallet." Agent: "Your wallet? I'm so sorry. Let me get your name and we'll see how we can help."

Learning how to build rapport is an art, not a science. You may recall Yul Brynner, the great actor, who appeared in the musical "The King and I" in more than 2,000 performances. He said the same words, night after night. Yet each performance was award winning. Why? Because each performance he gave was to a different audience. I imagine he got tired of the script sometimes. Yet because he knew the audience was new each night, he made his lines sound fresh every time.

For call center agents, the telephone is your stage and the connect button is the curtain. One of the best ways agents can be sure to convey empathy is to practice the
lines they say the most so that the delivery sounds different each time.

I sympathize with agents who work in centers that receive enormous numbers of calls. But I also hear all sorts of excuses. One of the most common is: "Gee, Nancy, we have to say the same thing over and over. It gets so boring." Or "Nancy, we're limited for time for each call." Or "Our policy is to get on and off the phone as quickly as possible."

These are excuses. Not reasons. Although the person on the phone may say the same thing over and over again, it's probably the caller's first time asking the question. And it isn't enough for agents to know the answers. They also have to reassure customers that they're ready to help them. When customers reach call center agents, they don't care how much they know — until they know how much they care.

From: Nancy Friedman
[nancy@telephonedoctor.ccsend.com] on behalf of Nancy Friedman
[nancyf@telephonedoctor.com]

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### Research - Project Report: Tree Substrate

Determining the best particle size and combination of pine bark, peat moss or sand for plant growth in a pine tree substrate.

This has been another productive year of research made possible in part by last year's grant from the VNLA Research Foundation. Grower tests continue at commercial nurseries and one commercial substrate company produced PTS which was used by one nursery in Virginia. All results were positive with all plants growing as well in pine tree substrate as in pine bark. Below is a progress report on last year's objectives.

Our work this past year demonstrated that amending coarsely ground pine tree substrate (PTS) with finer particle PTS or and with other materials [sand, peat moss (PM) and aged pine bark (PB)] can result in a substrate with comparable physical properties [container capacity (CC) and air space (AS)] and plant growth as with 100% PB and PM. This research indicates that there needs to be sufficient fine particles in any amendment to achieve at least 10% fines in the resulting substrate for an acceptable CC. Despite not improving CC, the addition of sand to PTS did improve plant growth, therefore justifying its use as a PTS amendment.

In addition, there may be other advantages to amending coarsely ground PTS with finer ground components. A more coarsely ground PTS would be less expensive to manufacture. Our studies have shown that the output of PTS from a hammer mill with no screen in place would be about 76 kg/hp-hr compared to only 16 kg/hp-hr for a hammer mill fitted with a 4.76-mm screen. The lower output would increase inputs such as labor, energy cost for grinding, and require a more expensive hammer mill designed to move material (coarse pine chips) through a smaller screen. Whether these savings would more than enough to offset the cost of adding 25% peat moss or aged PB to PTS would need to be carefully evaluated.

As a result of recent industry trends for the production of large woody plants in large containers (greater than 45 L for over two years), production of PTS composed of larger particles, would decay less rapidly and facilitate substrate stability over these long production periods. The exact extent to which all these factors influence cost of production is not totally understood but with further investigations will become more apparent.

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Robert D. Wright Virginia Tech

These research projects were funded in part from the VNA Horticulture Research Foundation Inc.
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Potential Benefits of Creating or Enhancing a Backyard Habitat

Beauty and Increased Property Values: Many plants, shrubs, and trees that benefit wildlife also are attractive to people. Having a variety of plants adds interest to your yard and helps protect against drastic changes caused by insect pests and plant diseases. The beauty and health of your yard add to the value of your real estate.

Value for Wildlife: Each species has different requirements so you need to provide diversity in your habitat if you hope to attract a variety of species. Further, wildlife will fare better where habitats provide most of the food, water, and cover they require in one area, minimizing the amount of travel they need to do.

Environmental Benefits: Well-managed backyard habitats can save energy, protect the soil, and improve water and air quality. Vegetation reduces the temperature extremes of heat often associated with urban areas, and when plants are located appropriately they can help cool our homes during the summer and reduce heat loss in the winter. Trees and other plants hold soils in place during rain and wind, reducing the amount of sediment and contaminants that enter water bodies. Plants improve air quality by filtering particulates and removing carbon dioxide from the air, replacing it with oxygen. Plants enhance our privacy and reduce dust and noise from road traffic. These effects are especially noticeable in developed areas. Plants make towns and cities more comfortable and pleasant places to live, for humans and wildlife.

Expect the Unexpected in Backyard Habitats

There are many reasons for creating backyard habitats. Whether you want to create an appealing space for humans or enhance conditions for a particular species or the wildlife community as a whole, you should be prepared to deal with potentially unexpected results. The adage "if you build it, they will come" certainly applies to habitats we create in our yards. Functional and diverse habitats on your property are very likely to attract the animals you desire. However, it also is likely that you will attract species that you did not anticipate. Without careful planning or management some of these species may become pests.

Very often, property owners will encounter snakes that have been attracted to the new abundance of insects or small mammals that have prospered in your new habitat. Other predators (e.g., hawks, owls, foxes, coyotes) may respond to and take advantage of prey populations that have increased in abundance and vicinity.

Insect Control: Many species of wildlife, especially birds, eat insects. This is a great way to deal with annoying pests! Depending upon the species of wildlife you attract to your habitat, you may reduce the need to use certain harmful chemicals.

Habitat for Humans: Creating your own backyard habitat brings nature into your home range, offering opportunities to learn, enjoy, and pursue hobbies like bird watching, drawing, and photography right in your backyard.

Low Maintenance: For easier maintenance of your wildlife habitat landscapes consider using native plants. Native plants are adapted to local weather and soil conditions, they better resist local insects and diseases, and they provide foods that are familiar and timed to the life cycles of the animals in the region. Using native plants also reduces the potential for introducing invasive exotics that can cause serious problems to existing native populations. As invasive non-native plants spread, they may crowd out and compete with natives, causing some wildlife to lose their preferred food sources.
density. Free-roaming species, like raccoons, opossums, or skunks, may find your yard very attractive due to the food resources it now provides or the cover it affords. They also may find the garbage can, the open garage or storage shed, or the space below your deck to be an attractive resource, too. Herbivores like deer and rabbits may cause significant feeding damage to plantings if you do not take precautions. All wildlife species are protected or regulated by statute; they cannot simply be eliminated on a whim if you find a particular species to be objectionable.

Careful planning can reduce potential problem species, but increasing habitat diversity increases the probability of unexpected consequences. While this may be a part of the allure of backyard habitats, you should be prepared to deal with unexpected problems in a responsible way.

To help prevent unwanted animal attention to your house, yard, and garden keep those areas tidy. Keep brush or woodpiles away from the house or garden. Don't leave pet food or garbage outside and keep areas under houses and porches cleared and sealed when possible. For more information about animal damage control see the list of publications at the end of this publication.

The Four Basic Wildlife Needs: Food, Water, Cover, and Space

Food: Each species has its own nutritional needs, which may change from one season to another and with the age or reproductive status of the animal. Well-planned plantings in a backyard habitat can provide a variety of foods, such as fruits and berries, grains and seeds, nuts and acorns, browse (the twigs and buds of shrubs and trees), and forage (grasses and legumes). Flowering plants provide nectar as well as seeds and fruits. Some plants have greater value because they hold their seed or fruit well into the fall or winter when other food sources already are depleted. Insects and other invertebrates, attracted to flowers, shrubs, and trees, also provide food for wildlife.

Water: Water is essential to all forms of life. Water sources on your property should be protected and can be enhanced. If you lack readily available water sources, you might create an artificial pond or use birdbaths. Many species of wildlife obtain the water they need directly from the food they eat, but a good drink of clean water is always welcome. Bird-
baths should be no more than three inches deep and have a rough, sloping bottom to provide good footing. Heated birdbaths provide water when most other sources are frozen. Ponds should have shallow edges so that small animals can drink without danger of falling in and drowning.

Cover: Trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants provide shelter or cover for wildlife, as do rock piles, brush piles, cavities in trees, and birdhouses. Wildlife use cover to protect themselves from the elements, to hide from predators, and to rest or sleep. They also use cover for nests, dens, and rearing their young. Cover also helps animals maintain temperature and conserve energy reserves by offering protection against cold winter winds and inclement weather, as well as providing cool shade during hot summer months.

Space: Many species of wildlife are territorial, which means they will defend an area that contains the food, water, and cover resources they need. Species that are not territorial simply live in a resource-rich area that allows them to perform their daily functions and successfully find food, water, and cover without overt competition. The amount of space needed for a territory or home range varies with the species, the quality of the habitat, the number of other competitors, and the time of year. Have you noticed that many birds are solitary or paired in summer and flock together in winter? Keep in mind that territories and home ranges may include, but often extend beyond, your yard.

Planning for a Backyard Habitat

Why are you doing this and what do you really want to achieve? It is very important to think carefully about what you want in your yard, in terms of wildlife and other uses or values, before you undertake any on-the-ground actions. What are your goals? Do you want to focus on just a few species or attract as many species as possible? What species have you already seen in your yard? What species are present in other parts of your community that might be enticed to your property? Keep in mind that you will be managing the habitat, not the wildlife species themselves. Do you want increased privacy, exciting views of gardens or flowering trees from your windows, a protective windbreak against cold north winds or shade for south-facing windows during summer? Make a list of your specific goals for your habitat and then prioritize them. Recognize that you can create suitable habitat for wildlife while achieving a landscape that also meets your needs. Make a master plan and then implement it in phases as finances and time allow (see Figure below).

Take Inventory. Make a sketch map of your yard and draw in all the physical features (e.g., buildings, septic tanks and fields, power lines, driveways). Then, locate the existing plants, trees, hedges, and other vegetation you wish to keep. It is not necessary to remove existing plantings that interfere with your goals. Include on your map important features of neighboring lands, such as a pond, a stand of big white pine trees, or a rock wall. Remember, habitat is not confined by your property lines, so you should think as wildlife do and see the opportunities that exist nearby. Other helpful information, such as soil and light conditions (wet, dry, shady, and sunny areas), should be added to your map. Identify soil types and find out if there are nutrient deficiencies (consider having a soil test performed through your county Extension office).

Below is an example of a drawing of a typical residence and yard used to plan a backyard habitat. You can use graph paper to help sketch your own yard to appropriate scale.
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Principles of a Backyard Habitat

Form and Function: When choosing plants to use in your yard, consider the function or role they will play as well as the form or appearance they offer. Will this plant provide food or shelter? Will it add diversity to the habitat? Since you may have limits on what you can plant because of the size of your yard or the cost of plant materials, try to select plants that fulfill more than one habitat function.

Plant Diversity: Diversity or variety in your habitat promotes a healthy landscape and attracts a more diverse wildlife community. Keep in mind that habitat diversity includes both species and structural diversity of the plants that form habitat, as well as a variety of nonliving materials.

The presence of many plant species makes it less likely that insects or disease will cause severe problems. Having a variety of trees, shrubs, perennial and annual flowers, and grasses in your yard also may attract a more varied wildlife community. With careful planning, a diverse plant community can provide a wide selection of food and cover options for wildlife, as well as reward you with a year-round variety of aesthetically pleasing views as the plants flower or fruit at different times.

Ecotone

The zone of transition from one habitat to another. The wider the zone and the greater the diversity of plant species and vertical structure, the more diversity there will be in the species of wildlife attracted to the site.

The shape and size of different plants combine to create horizontal and vertical structure in your landscape. You can think of horizontal, or lateral, structure in terms of edges, those places where one habitat type meets another (e.g., where a lawn abuts a stand of trees). You can increase lateral diversity by widening the ecotone, the zone of transition between habitat types. For example, you could plant small shrubs such as sweet pepperbush, tall shrubs such as serviceberry, and small trees such as crabapple on the edge between a lawn and a line of trees, as shown in the illustration above right. You can widen the ecotone in a flower garden by planting species of increasing heights. This can be accomplished by having low-growing plants, such as sedum and marigolds, in front of medium-height plants, such as columbine and liatris, with tall plants, such as phlox and yarrow, located behind.

You can increase vertical diversity in your landscape by adding more layers of vegetation between the ground and the treetops. Wildlife species that feed, nest, or find shelter at different levels will be better able to meet their needs. You can enhance vertical diversity as already described above, or by planting specific species of varying heights and growth habits in arrangements that are appealing to you. Of course, use plants appropriate to the size of your yard.

Diversity of nonliving materials: There is more to wildlife habitat diversity than living plants. Standing or fallen dead trees provide potential cavities, food, and perches. Brush piles, rock piles, and stone walls provide hiding, nesting, and feeding sites. Sources of grit and loose soil (for dust baths) are important to birds as aids to digestion and hygiene. Buildings provide nest sites and perches, as well as places for butterflies and moths to hibernate. Nest and winter roosting boxes can be erected to supplement natural cavities, and feeders add to the food supply. Water, in any form, is essential.

Seasonality

Providing food and cover year-round requires a variety of trees, shrubs, and other plants. It is important to think about the needs of the wildlife species you hope to attract during each season. A sufficient quantity of high-quality food during fall, winter, and early spring is critical to the survival of resident, as well as migrating, species. Energy needs of wildlife also are high during late spring and summer due to the demands of reproduction. Adequate and well-placed cover is necessary year-round for nest sites, shelter from weather, escape from predators, and roosting. Conifers, trees with cavities, and brush and rock piles provide winter shelter.

Arrangement

Natural Wild Design, allowing ready access to food, water, and cover, is an advantage in creating the backyard habitat. Curves and clusters are visually appealing to us, and often will be more useful to wildlife than linear or solitary plantings. Sources of food, cover, and water need to be located near each other. Feeders located too far away from protective cover either will not be used or will increase the risk of mortality to users from exposure to adverse weather or predation. By planting several offset rows of conifers, you can create an energy-
efficient break against prevailing winds. On the inside of the windbreak, a protected area will be created for feeders or plants that bear berries or other fruits. When placing nest boxes, locate them to meet the needs of the species for which the nest box is intended rather than what looks attractive to you.

**Protection**

**Predation:** To offer protection for birds, all feeders and birdbaths should be located at least 15 feet away from shrubby cover because cats often use this cover to ambush birds using these facilities. However, feeders should be placed no more than 30 to 40 feet from some form of cover to provide sanctuary from aerial predators.

**Windows:** Because large windows can reflect an image of the sky and adjacent vegetation, songbirds sometimes fly into them, resulting in serious or fatal injury. To prevent such crashes, do not place bird feeders adjacent to windows. Or, try placing a cutout silhouette of a flying falcon or a mobile of pinecones in front of the window or attach parallel strings across the window.

**Nest boxes:** House sparrows and starlings are exotic birds that compete with native songbirds and will sometimes kill native birds in skirmishes to control a nest box. It is essential when you buy or make nest boxes to choose ones designed specifically for the species you want to attract. Removing all perches from any nest box will reduce the risk of predation or invasion by these exotic species. Learn how and where to place nest boxes to reduce predation by cats and raccoons. Recommendations for placement are often species-specific. Seek guidance from birdhouse vendors or [www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/basics/placement.html#Where](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/basics/placement.html#Where).

**Sanitation:** It is extremely important to keep bird feeders, nest boxes, and birdbaths clean. The transmission of disease associated with contaminated bird feeders is a serious problem and can contribute to death among songbirds. Food can become contaminated with mold or fungus when it is not stored properly or when it remains too long in a feeder. The surfaces of feeders and birdbaths can support viruses and other diseases left behind by an infected bird; diseases can then be spread to uninfected individuals every time they use that feeder. Sick

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birds often look unkempt, are less alert or less active, feed less often, and are often reluctant to fly away.

**Take these steps to prevent disease before birds become sick:**

- At least once a week, rake up waste food, husks, and other accumulated material below feeders on the ground.
- Avoid crowding birds by providing multiple feeders, spaced apart rather than clustered together.
- Use feeders that don't have sharp points or edges. Bacteria and viruses on contaminated surfaces can infect healthy birds through even small scratches.
- Clean and disinfect feeders at least once every two weeks, and more often if you observe sick birds. Remove all food remaining in the feeder, wash it thoroughly with warm soapy water, rinse with clean water, and then immerse the feeder for two or three minutes in a solution of one part liquid chlorine household bleach to nine parts warm water. Remove and allow the feeder to air dry before refilling.
- Do not dispense food that smells musty, is wet, looks moldy, or has fungus growing on it. Discard any food that has had any contact with rodents.
- Disinfect the storage container and food scoop that may have come in contact with spoiled food.
- Every day, rinse birdbaths and replace the water. Twice a week scrub them with a plastic bristle brush and mild dish detergent, and rinse thoroughly before refilling. Once every two weeks, after scrubbing the bath, fill it with a 10-percent bleach solution and let it stand for three minutes. Rinse well with clean water and air dry before refilling with water.
- Tell your neighbors who feed birds about these precautions. Birds move among feeders and spread diseases as they go.

**Nectar Feeders:** The nectar dispensed in artificial feeders can ferment in as little as two to three days. Drinking fermented nectar can cause enlarged livers in hummingbirds and orioles. Purchase only feeders that come apart easily so that you can scrub and disinfect all surfaces every two days as described above. Be sure to thoroughly rinse the feeder after it has been immersed in the bleach-water solution. Plant a diversity of nectar-rich plants to supply natural nectar to wildlife.

**Suet:** Do not offer suet year-round. Sun-warmed suet can become rancid and lead to infection and potential loss of facial feathers. It also mats the feathers, reducing their insulating and waterproofing ability. Provide suet

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only from late October through April or May, or when outdoor temperature warms noticeably.

**Chemical fertilizers and pesticides:** Many common house and yard chemicals present dangers to wildlife and humans. Birds can mistake common granular formulations as grit and unknowingly consume a lethal dose. Predators may then consume prey that has been exposed to chemicals. If you use any chemicals, use them only as directed. Even then, many formulations can still be lethal to wildlife. Re-evaluate the need to use these substances. Choose plant species that are resistant to diseases and pests or let wildlife perform your insect control. Wherever possible, be tolerant of some insect damage. Use mulch, composted leaves, or other organic matter to add nutrients to the soil and help strengthen a plant's ability to ward off diseases.

### Resources

#### Programs
Habitat at Home© is an education outreach effort of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries that offers guidelines on how to provide food, water, and cover for a variety of wildlife species. Homeowners and other Virginia residents may apply for a Habitat at Home© certificate. For more details, visit http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/ or contact Carol Heiser at HabitatAtHome@dgif.virginia.gov.

#### Publications

#### Web Links
www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htm/pubs/habitats/7137.htm
www.birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/bhbasics/placement.html#Where

"Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed." U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.  
www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/toc.htm

www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesMD/index.htm

"Landscaping for a Healthy Planet." Pennsylvania Audubon Society and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.  
www.envirolandscaping.org/webcasts.htm

www.naba.org/

The Virginia Native Plant Society.  
www.vnps.org/

www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/

"Butterfly Garden." University of Tennessee Extension Specialized Gardening Publication PB1636.  
www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1636.pdf

"Audubon At Home." Audubon Society.  
www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/

Potential Wildlife Pests
Web Links

www.ext.vt.edu/departments/envirohort/articles/misc/skunkmg.html

Managing Wildlife Damage: Black Bears (Ursus americanus), Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 420-200.  
http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420-200/

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420-202/

Managing Wildlife Damage: Canada Goose (Branta canadensis), Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 420-203.  
http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420-203/

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420-201/

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Rick D. Rudd, Interim Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Wondi Mersie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg, Date May 1, 2009

Contact the VNLA office for a copy of this graphic as an electronic file at vch@vnla.org or call 1-800-476-0055

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Take Pride, Be Certified!
**Backyard Wildlife Habitats**

If you are a Virginia Certified Horticulturist, answer the following questions from the previous article, mark your answers on the card insert to the left and mail or fax back to the VNLA office towards your recertification CEU’s for your Virginia Certified Horticulturist.

1. “Value for wildlife” is a potential benefit of creating a backyard habitat
   A. True
   B. False

2. The four basic wildlife needs in a backyard habitat are:
   A. color, scenery, plants, and no animals
   B. food, water, cover and space

3. Most species of wildlife have the same nutritional needs.
   A. True
   B. False

4. Planning for a backyard habitat should include:
   A. The reasoning for creating a backyard habitat
   B. Goals for creating the habitat
   C. Taking inventory of the space
   D. All of the above
   E. A and C only

5. Principles of a Backyard habitat are:
   A. Form and Function
   B. Available Water
   C. Plant Diversity
   D. All of the above
   E. A and C only

6. Ecotone is the colors of the surrounding space of the habitat.
   A. True
   B. False

7. There is more to a wildlife habitat diversity than living plants.
   A. True
   B. False

8. A sufficient quantity of high-quality food is needed during:
   A. Autumn
   B. Early Spring
   C. Winter
   D. Summer
   E. All of the above
   F. A., B, C only

9. To offer protection for birds, all feeders and birdbaths should be located at least 15 feet from shrubby cover.
   A. True
   B. False

10. You should offer suet year round.
    A. True
    B. False

11. Sanitation is extremely important to your backyard habitat.
    A. True
    B. False

12. Many species of wildlife, especially birds offer insect control.
    A. True
    B. False

13. Without careful planning or management, some unwanted species may be attracted to your habitat.
    A. True
    B. False

14. No species of wildlife are territorial.
    A. True
    B. False

15. You can widen the Ecotone in a flower garden by planting species of the same height.
    A. True
    B. False
Virginia Tech’s Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center hosts an official trial and All-America Display Garden located at 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, Va. The garden, one of only five official All-America Selections (AAS) Display Gardens in Virginia, is open to the public and easily accessed from Diamond Springs Road. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the gardens from dawn until dusk seven days a week during the season.

A team of Virginia Beach Master Gardeners establishes and maintains a new Trial Garden each year, using seed and new seedlings from AAS and seed producers around the nation. The Master Gardeners grow approximately 3,600 plants each year, starting in late-January. The purpose is to evaluate new cultivars for performance in our environment, and to introduce them to local nurserymen and the public. In 2009, the following 14 cultivars were among those evaluated as demonstrating ‘excellent growth and display characteristics’.

Information collected includes the plant name, variety, seed source, sowing date, height (inches), spread (inches), flower size (inches)—floret diameter or spike length accordingly—peak season, performance and heat tolerance rating. These ratings were evaluated collectively for each Plant/Variety, and an overall performance rating (Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent) was awarded. Comments were noted as appropriate. Data were collected weekly throughout the process and growing season.

All of the plants in the attached table were rated Excellent in our tests, and all were from one of three providers: S&G Seeds, Inc., Benary Seeds (BE) and All America Selections (AAS).

It is January 2010 and we are already gearing up for another bountiful and beautiful Trial Garden. If you are in the area from June to September, please stop by to see the fruits of our hard work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANT</th>
<th>VARIETY</th>
<th>SUPPLIER</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begonias</td>
<td>‘Big Rose Bronze Leaf’</td>
<td>Benary</td>
<td>A stunning begonia series. Blooms are ‘Big’ as the name says</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Super Olympia Bicolor’ and Volumia Series – (Pink, Light Pink, Bicolor, Scarlet, White)</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>All plants in selection, as well as those above, were rated Excellent and bloomed from July through the end of the season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celosia</td>
<td>‘Crustata Amigo Red’ and ‘Fresh Look Gold’</td>
<td>S&amp;G, AAS</td>
<td>Amigo Red had strikingly long-lasting red blooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaillardia</td>
<td>‘Arizona Sun’ and ‘Mesa Yellow’</td>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>Both bloom from July through Oct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impatiens Double</td>
<td>All 6 varieties in the ‘Silhouette’ series</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>The S. Light Pink was one of the prettiest double impatiens we’ve seen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Guinea Impatiens</td>
<td>All 14 varieties in the ‘Sonic’ series</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>These were a standout in the garden. A favorite of the team. They were beautiful healthy and long-lasting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Type</td>
<td>Variety Details</td>
<td>Supplier</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lantana</td>
<td>All 4 varieties in the ‘Bandana’ series</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>These plants developed extensive, strong root systems over the season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobelia</td>
<td>‘Techno Heat Dark Blue’, ‘Techno Heat Electric Blue’, and ‘Techno Heat Upright Blue’</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>These lobelias were quite heat tolerant in our trials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marigold</td>
<td>‘Moonstruck Orange’, ‘Moonstruck Yellow’</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>Very Nice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Peppers</td>
<td>3 varieties in the ‘Explosive’ series ‘E. Ember’, and ‘E. Ignite, and Black Pearl</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>All were showy and productive Black Pearl is a very attractive variety at all stages. It produces round black peppers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon</td>
<td>‘Appleblossom’ and 3 varieties in the ‘Phoenix’ series ‘P. Lavender’, ‘P. Pink’, and ‘P. Violet’</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>Appleblossom performed well in our trials. The blossoms are somewhat like snapdragons. Very nice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudbeckia</td>
<td>‘Denver Daisy’</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>This outstanding variety produces huge yellow blossoms with a ring around the eye. Excellent in the landscape and heat resistant. Gorgeous in a mass planting. A team favorite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbena</td>
<td>All 9 varieties in the ‘Lanai’ series, both varieties in the ‘Magelana’ series and 3 varieties in the ‘Rapunzel’ series</td>
<td>S&amp;G</td>
<td>All of the verbena varieties performed well in our trials,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinca</td>
<td>‘First Kiss Blueberry’ and ‘Pacifica Burgundy Halo’, ‘Sunstorm Lilac’</td>
<td>AAS &amp; S&amp;G</td>
<td>‘First Kiss Blueberry’ is lovely, large flowered and bluish in color. ‘Pacifica Burgundy Halo’ is an especially beautiful variety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Report prepared by Anna Pratt and Bob MacIver, 2010 Trial Garden co-Team Leaders, on behalf of the Trial Garden Team, and submitted by Dr. Pete Schultz, Director, HRAREC.

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**Research – Spurge Control Studies**

First of all, I would like to thank the Virginia Nurserymen’s Horticultural Research Foundation, Inc. for financially supporting this research. I have established these trials at Saunders Brothers Nursery and at Bennett’s Creek Nursery. I would like to thank Tom and Bennett Saunders, John Lancaster, and Bob Black for their assistance with these studies.

Spurge is a common and troublesome weed in container production. The major species in Virginia is spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata* or *Chamaesyce maculata*). My research has focused on this weed, which infests nurseries throughout the state. I learned this species as prostrate spurge, but that name now refers to a very similar spurge species that roots at the nodes but this species is not common in Virginia.

Spotted spurge is a summer annual with opposite leaves, pink, hairy stems, a white milky sap and generally a red spot on the leaves. Spotted spurge does not root at the nodes. This species is most prevalent during the hot summer months. There
are other spurge species that are occasionally found in container production in Virginia, including nodding spurge and garden spurge.

I evaluated 2 strategies for spotted spurge control, along with general herbicide evaluation. In the first set of trials, I evaluated granular products, either alone or in combination, and I made multiple applications. One objective to this trial was to determine how to improve spurge control with Rout, either through application of other herbicides or through rotation to another product. At Saunders Nursery, Snapshot, FreeHand, Rout plus RegalKade, and Rout plus Pendulum 2G are providing the numerically highest control of spotted spurge, with lower control seen with Rout applied alone. BroadStar and Rout followed by BroadStar were intermediate in regards to spurge control. In the Bennett’s Creek trial, similar results were seen. The numerically highest spurge control was seen with FreeHand, followed by Snapshot and Rout plus RegalKade.

Besides our replicated trial at Saunders Brothers Nursery, one whole house was treated by Tom for each treatment listed in table 1. We used a full rate of Snapshot and FreeHand (200 pounds per acre for each), 100 pounds per acre for Pendulum 2G and Rout, and 150 pounds/A for RegalKade and BroadStar. Obviously costs for these treatments will vary, depending on application rates, quantity purchased, and current pricing. Adding the other herbicides to Rout improved spotted spurge control. One needs to compare the extra herbicide costs to the hand labor savings to determine if these are viable options to Rout applied alone.

Our second strategy was to include a sprayable herbicide to improve spurge control over Rout applied alone. At Saunders Brothers Nursery and at Bennett’s Creek Nursery, adding Barricade, Pendulum AquaCap, Surflan, or Tower to a base application of Rout resulted in greater spurge control compared to any of these herbicides applied alone. As with the granular trials, one has to weigh the cost of the sprayable herbicide versus the savings in hand weeding.

Table 1. Treatment costs and spotted spurge counts in whole house trials. I would like to thank Tom Saunders for his help generating this table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Application</th>
<th>Second Application</th>
<th>Cost per acre for 2 Applications</th>
<th>Spotted Spurge Number after 1 application</th>
<th>Spotted Spurge Number after 2 applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rout</td>
<td>Rout</td>
<td>$398</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rout</td>
<td>Rout</td>
<td>$435</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BroadStar</td>
<td>BroadStar</td>
<td>$471</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapshot</td>
<td>Snapshot</td>
<td>$707</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rout + RegalKade</td>
<td>Rout + RegalKade</td>
<td>$614</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rout + Pendulum 2G</td>
<td>Rout + Pendulum 2G</td>
<td>$656</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FreeHand</td>
<td>FreeHand</td>
<td>$628</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jeffrey Derr, Weed Scientist, Virginia Tech, JDERR@VT.EDU

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**Research – Herbicide Evaluations at HRAREC**

**Evaluation of FreeHand and Tower for Weed Control in Herbaceous Perennials**

First of all, I would like to thank the Virginia Nurserymen’s Horticultural Research Foundation, Inc. for financially supporting this research. I have established these trials at Bennett’s Creek Nursery as well as at the research station. I would like to thank John Lancaster and Bob Black for their assistance with these studies.

Currently there are limited options for weed control in perennials. One new chemical that has been introduced for the nursery and landscape industries is dimethenamid, sold in a sprayable form as Tower, and in a combination granular formulation as FreeHand. FreeHand contains 1% pendimethalin, the active ingredient in Pendulum, as well as 0.75% dimethenamid. Since Tower is an emulsifiable concentrate, one needs sufficient testing to ensure that overtop applications can be made, especially during summer months. In general, granular products tend to be safer in nursery crops.

The Bennett’s Creek trial contained Black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, pinchusion flower, verbena, coreopsis, lantana, sedum, ice plant, daylily, and dianthus. At the 150 pounds per
Good roots grow healthy plants, just as good highway routes ensure on-time delivery. The Triad area of North Carolina has both.

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  High Point, NC 27265
  336-454-2548

- **Monterey Nursery**
  1985 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
  McLeansville, NC 27301
  336-697-9042

- **Buds & Blooms Nursery**
  7501 U.S. Hwy 29 North
  Brown Summit, NC 27214
  1-800-772-2837

- **Greensboro Shrub Nursery**
  4514 Burlington Rd.
  Greensboro, NC 27405
  336-621-6579

- **Piedmont Carolina**
  1867 Sandy Ridge Rd.
  Colfax, NC 27235
  336-993-4114

- **Cam Too Camellia Nursery**
  805 Oakbury Ct.
  Greensboro, NC 27455
  336-643-3727

- **Green Thumb Nursery & Tree**
  P.O. Box 140
  Ether, NC 27247
  1-800-752-6869

- **Bryan Wagoner’s Tree Farm**
  9948 Kerr’s Chapel Rd.
  Gibsonville, NC 27249
  336-585-0052
acre use rate of FreeHand, a typical use rate, I observed no injury to any of these species. When I applied 300 and 600 pounds FreeHand per acre, I did observe slight injury in purple coneflower and in pinchusion flower but no injury was seen in the other species. The 300 and 600 pounds per acre rates are higher than the maximum use - I do this in my research trials to determine the tolerance level. So it appears all of these species have good tolerance to FreeHand at the labeled rate. At the 150 pound per acre rate, I observed very good control of prostrate spurge, good control of sowthistle, and poor control of common groundsel. At the one quart per acre rate of Tower applied overtop, I observed essentially no injury in all the perennials tested. Tower provided weed control similar to FreeHand.

My trials at the station have included purple coneflower, columbine, gaura, celamitis, butterfly milkweed, pinchusion flower, blanket flower, Nepeta, Shasta daisy, astilbe, caladium, and primrose. As in the Bennett’s Creek trial, I only observed slight injury in purple coneflower when I applied higher than labeled rates of FreeHand and Tower. I saw a similar pattern in columbine. When I applied Freehand at 150 pounds per acre or Tower at 1.5 pints per acre, I saw no injury in purple coneflower, columbine, gaura, or celamitis. At 41 days after treatment, all herbicides appeared to reduce flowering in purple coneflower and gaura, while no adverse impact on celamitis flowering was seen. Total flower count (7/13 thru 8/14/09) in purple coneflower appeared to decrease as the FreeHand rate increased but Tower did not affect flowering in this species. FreeHand and Tower gave excellent spotted spurge control but only suppression of common groundsel.

Caladium appears to be very tolerant to both Freehand and Tower. I observed no injury, even when applied at rates higher than the use rates, when making applications either before or after emergence of caladium.

Slight injury to butterfly milkweed was seen at the highest rate of FreeHand at 39 days after treatment, but lower rates did not cause injury. No reduction in agastache flowering was seen from any treatment. There was a trend towards lower butterfly milkweed flowering at the 2 higher rates of FreeHand. FreeHand at the lowest rate gave fair control of tasselflower and longstalked phyllanthus at 21 days after treatment but control decreased by 39 days after treatment DAT. Snapshot gave poor control of both weeds. FreeHand, Snapshot, and Jewel all significantly reduced the population of southern crabgrass and fragrant flat sedge at 22 days after treatment.

In another of my trials at the station, I did not see injury in blanket flower, Nepeta, astilbe, Shasta daisy, or primrose at 150 pounds of FreeHand per acre. Slight injury (11-15%) was observed in pinchusion flower at 34 days after treatment and the injury decreased by 50 days after treatment. Slight (7%) injury was seen in blanket flower at the 3X FreeHand rate at 34 DAT, with no injury seen at 50 days after treatment. No injury was seen in primrose or Nepeta. No reduction in flowering or plant stand was noted with any FreeHand rate in pinchusion flower, blanket flower, primrose, or Nepeta. Little to no injury was seen in astilbe, Shasta daisy, or weigela. At the lowest rate, FreeHand gave fair control of spotted spurge, poor control of crabgrass, and excellent control of annual sedges. At the 2 higher rates, excellent control of all weed species was seen.

Based on the research I have conducted, Freehand appears to be an effective herbicide in container production, with good tolerance in the perennials I have evaluated. It will not control all weed species, but it will provide acceptable control of a number of common container weed species, including spotted spurge, crabgrass, and annual sedges. At use rates of FreeHand, I have seen excellent control of rice flat sedge, spotted (prostrate) spurge, and annual bluegrass, and good to excellent control of crabgrass, fragrant flatsedge, and common chickweed. Control of eclipta and tasselflower has ranged from fair to good, while control of longstalked phyllanthus has been poor to fair, depending on the application rate of FreeHand. I need to conduct more research with the sprayable formulation Tower, but the research I have conducted so far looks very promising for overtop applications in nursery production.

Jeffrey Derr Weed, Scientist, Virginia Tech, JDERR@VT.EDU

Research - Long-Term Effects of Carbon Dioxide on Plants

Studied by ARS

Long-term, open-top chamber studies of how rising carbon dioxide (CO2) could affect crops, forests, and pastures reveal a wide range of impacts, according to Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists.

Plant physiologist Steve Prior at the ARS National Soil Dynamics Laboratory in Auburn, Ala., heads this research effort. He, plant pathologist Brett Runion, and other colleagues at the Auburn laboratory have found that fast-growing exotic weedy invasives such as Chinese privet, nut sedge and tropical spiderwort could become even more troublesome as CO2 levels increase to 550 parts per million as predicted by 2050.

For forest species such as longleaf pine, higher CO2 levels improve water use efficiency, which may improve drought tolerance, by causing leaf pores or stomates to stay partially closed longer. In their studies, growth and survival of pine trees went up, while growth and survival of understory plants declined by half.
In addition to increased pine needle production under high CO2, the scientists also found some chemical changes in these needles that litter the forest floor, resulting in less nutritional content for millipedes and other bugs and microbes that feed on them. These changes may alter carbon and nutrient cycling in these natural systems.

And they found that higher CO2 can increase residues left from soybeans and other crops and affect the amount of nitrogen available to plants as microbes decompose the residue. Different soybean varieties may also have different effects on nitrogen availability in a high CO2 world.

In addition to weeds, Prior and Runion also saw effects on disease and insect pests, such as fusiform rust and the red headed pine sawfly.

The study supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture's priority of responding to climate change.

Read more about this and other climate change research in the November–December 2009 issue of Agricultural Research magazine, available online at: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archives/2009/plant1109.htm ARS News Service Agricultural Research Service, USDA Don Comis, (301) 504-1625, donald.comis@ars.usda.gov December 7, 2009 – View this report online, plus photos and related stories, at www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr

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### Research - Coneflowers for Mid-Atlantic Region

In recent years gardeners have been faced with an exciting, abundant, and often confusing array of new coneflower cultivars from which to make selections for their gardens. After assembling, observing, and collecting data on 31 cultivars of purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), 12 hybrid cultivars, and 5 species for a three-year period, recommendations have been made on those that performed best under garden conditions in the mid-Atlantic region.


These selections received the top ratings based upon good habit, disease and pest resistance, abundant floral display, and winter hardiness. Recommended cultivars evaluated in specific categories include Echinacea purpurea ‘Fragrant Angel’ (white flowers), Echinacea ‘Sunrise’ (yellow flowers), Echinacea ‘Tiki Torch’ (orange flowers), Echinacea purpurea ‘Hope’ (light pink flowers), Echinacea ‘Twilight’ (dwarf habit),

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Echinacea purpurea ‘Coconut Lime’ (uniquely shaped flowers), and Echinacea purpurea ‘Sparkler’ (variegated foliage).

Additional progress has been made by breeders during the three years this evaluation was conducted and cultivar numbers continue to increase. New cultivars exhibiting unique flower colors and shapes, strong habit, and compact size promise an exciting future for coneflowers. We anticipate and look forward to an updated evaluation report in the future.

More information can be found at: http://mtcubacenter.org/research/documents/L402215_Brochure_Proof.pdf

**Events - Winter and Spring Seminars and Workshops — Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech**

Another great line-up of speakers and topics are on tap for 2010! We're taking a closer look at what sustainability really means in terms of our gardens, including concrete ways to make a difference; Cole Burrell and Brinkley Benson will offer thoughtful advice on both ornamentals and edibles. Marvel at amazing trees with across Virginia with Jeff Kirwan, get a jump on the growing season with Holly’s seed starting workshop, and be inspired by Elissa Steeves' magazine-worthy garden. Read on, then register by calling 540-231-5970 or visiting our website www.hort.vt.edu/hhg for a registration form (print off and mail in with payment). Join the Friends of the Garden to receive substantial discount on admission.

**Seed Starting Workshop with Dr. Holly Scoggins**

Saturday, March 20,10:00 a.m.- noon, Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion. Celebrate the first day of Spring by learning tips and tricks to get the most out of your vegetable and flower seeds. Holly will cover seed saving and storage, strategies to enhance germination, and care of seedlings - excellent topics for the novice or intermediate gardener. You'll take home commercial-quality tools of the trade: re-useable starter trays, professional germination mix, a humidity dome, and other goodies to get you growing!

Workshop has limited space - must pre-register. Holly is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture, and the Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. She teaches courses in greenhouse management, ornamental plant production, public gardens, and herbaceous landscape plants, and is the author of textbook chapters on seed and vegetative propagation of annuals and perennials. She is a frequent speaker at both green industry and gardener symposia and conferences and writes for the multi-university, science-meets-the-garden blog "Garden Professors". $25 Friends of the Garden/$30 general public.

**Ecological Approaches to Home Gardening with Brinkley Benson**

Thursday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion (note it is NOT in Fralin)

How can you build some of the strengths of natural ecosystems into your home garden? Brinkley will discuss this question and others in this interactive presentation that will help you better understand basic ecological principles and how they apply to your home landscape and garden. Learn how you can apply the principals gleaned from various methods of sustainable land management to build the productive capacity of your home landscape. Topics covered will include cover cropping, biological pest control, farmscaping, and reduced tillage/no tillage gardening.

Brinkley is a Research Specialist in the Department of Horticulture at Virginia Tech. His area of expertise is Organic Vegetable production - the organic horticulture research program has extensive plots maintained under organic production since 2002. In addition to his research responsibilities, Brinkley is working towards his PhD and also teaches two new undergraduate courses in sustainability and agriculture. $15 Friends of the Garden/ $20 general public/

**Cool Plants from a Crazed Woman Preparing for a Magazine Shoot with Elissa Steeves Thursday, April 15, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Virginia Bioinformatics Institute Auditorium (park at Litton Reeves)**

So, Horticulture magazine wants to come to town to do a story on your garden — let the freak-out begin! But with this honor came an opportunity to take an already-wonderful garden
and rethink, rework, and add many, many, MANY more fabulous plants. Elissa talks about some of her favorites, along with some hilarious anecdotes of the stress and excitement surrounding the shoot. Elissa is the original Hort Diva - it even says so on her license plate! Her energy and enthusiasm for gardening is unmatched, as is her amazing plant collection; all tolerated (barely) by her dear husband, Harry. Elissa was the first female teacher of high school agriculture in Commonwealth of Virginia, and retired from the Pulaski County School system in 2006. Her Blacksburg garden encompasses two large lots, has hundreds of plant species, tons of art and color, has appeared in Southern Living magazine (twice!) and will be featured in an upcoming issue of Horticulture magazine. $15 Friends of the Garden members / $20 general public

June 12: 6th Annual Garden Gala — "Tropicalissimo!" 5:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m. Food, drinks, music, and fun, all with a tropical twist! Last year's gala drew 275 attendees! Become a valued corporate sponsor and receive complimentary tickets. Contact Dr. Holly Scoggins for more information (540-231-5783 or perennials@vt.edu)

In Memoriam: Peggy Lee Hahn, former Virginia Tech first lady and Hahn Horticulture Garden benefactor

Peggy Lee Hahn receives a bouquet at the dedication of the Hahn Meadow Garden in June 2008.

Peggy Lee Hahn was the university's first lady from 1962 to 1974 — a period that saw some of the most significant changes in school history. Enrollment nearly tripled and what
was known as Virginia Polytechnic Institute became a comprehensive research university. Peggy Lee Hahn was also a generous benefactor to the university, especially its Hahn Horticulture Garden, which was renamed in her honor. The garden pavilion and new meadow garden are named for her as well. She was an avid and talented gardener in her own right, surrounding the Hahn home in Ellett Valley with beautiful garden beds. She graciously served as the Honorary Chair of the annual Garden Gala fundraiser since its inception in 2004.

When the garden pavilion was dedicated in honor of Peggy Lee Hahn in 2006, current university President Charles W. Steger said: "Much of what the university is today is a tribute to Dr. Hahn's vision and his devotion to Virginia Tech. At every step, Peggy was there with him, supporting his efforts and cementing relationships with hundreds of people, both on campus and across the commonwealth." Dr. Hahn declared "Peggy loves flowers, and I love Peggy" as motivation for the gift and bequest to the garden in her name.

Born Margaret Louise "Peggy" Lee on Dec. 17, 1923, on a dairy farm in DeWitt, Va., she grew up one of seven children and attended public schools before going on to graduate with a degree in home economics education from what is now James Madison University. She taught home economics before going on to graduate seven children and attended public schools before going on to graduate with a degree in home economics education from what is now James Madison University. She taught home economics with a degree in home economics at Bladensburg High School in Hyattsville, Md., before marrying T. Marshall Hahn Jr. in 1948.

Albert Raboteau, University Development & Dr. Holly Scoggins, Associate Professor and Director, Hahn Horticulture Garden, Virginia Tech

### Events – The ABC’s of Green Industry Course

The Wright Scoop, www.TheWrightScoop.com, launches 'for credit' college course: In today’s market, branding is injecting a product, service and organization with an unique, consistent, desirable persona-position that reigns over a consumer’s mind and is so highly valued that consumers gladly, repeatedly, loyally fork more over for your brand than they will for any other competitor, delivering brand equity.

Based on nation-wide research and through examples of some of the best marketers and communicators in the business, communications specialist Sylvia Wright will leave you with an understanding of the 6 P’s – product, publicity, promotion, people, planet, & profit – as each influence Market Share communication. Her course assists in creating an awareness of communications concepts and business planning that includes ‘planet’ as the factor which influences eco-efficient products and services, not simply sustainable but leading edge branded images that are identified by consumers.

For central Virginians, the 2-credit course is available on Wednesdays May 26 through July 28 as course number HRT 195 - the ABC’s of Green Industry, meeting for 2 hours 50 minutes from 5:30-8:20 p.m. and held at the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) Parham Road Campus, www.reynolds.edu . The course is open to any person interested in ‘growing green (profit/planet)’ their market share. For details, link to http://www.pr.com/press-release/209642

For those unable to attend, Wright's research is available via her book or through consulting one-on-one or as a speech/workshop. Contact Sylvia Wright through her web site www.TheWrightScoop.com or by phone 804-672-6007.

### Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association 2010 Winter Board Meeting Minutes

At the Baltimore Convention Center, MD Tuesday, January 5, 2010 1 – 5 p.m.

1:00 p.m. Meeting Call to Order by Duane Shumaker, President with the following present: Ed Tankard, Mark Maslow, Matt Shreckhise, Doug Hensel, John Barbieri, Matt Sawyer, Steve Grigg, Cheryl Lajoie, Bonnie Appleton, Sonya Westervelt, Tom Thompson, and Jeff Miller.

Secretary’s Report – Mark Maslow moved that the previous meeting minutes for the October 21, 2009 Board Meeting be approved as mailed to the board, seconded and passed.

Treasurer – Mark Maslow Year-to-Date Financial Reports (emailed)

2010 Budget Review – Mark reviewed the final 2010 Budget which will be presented at the Annual Membership meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2010.

Regional Association Reports

HRNLA – Cheryl Lajoie – see attached report

MANTS – Doug Hensel reported that the show pre-registration was up, all the booth spaces were sold with 196 exhibitors on the waiting list, and that there were exhibitors waiting on the street to setup if any current exhibitors did not show up. The show sponsorships were down some from previous years but they expect to be close to level with the previous show. There will be a special recognition dinner on Tuesday evening celebrating 40 years of MANTS shows and recognizing firms who have participated all 40 years.

For further details, visit the MANTS website at www.mants.org
Executive Director Report - Jeff requested more feedback on issues from the board members when emails are sent out soliciting input and to “reply to all” where appropriate. If it’s something that should have a “reply to all”, Jeff will list the email recipients in the “TO” field, then board members can “reply to all”. Also in the subject field, a note will be made to “reply to all” if needed, or other detail info in the subject line.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – Duane Shumaker

Strategic Plan Review - Duane Shumaker said he would work with Ed to review the plan and establish some specific goals for 2010 and review them with the board.

Resource Development Committee – Candy Lindenzweig (absent)

Governance Committee – Candy Lindenzweig

Certification – Cheryl Lajoie - Certification Update - We have several chapters of the manual undergoing review at this time. VSLD (Virginia Society of Landscape Designers) is re-writing the landscape section, and will include quiz and test questions. Diane Roselius is doing a PowerPoint presentation for Plant ID review.

There were two review sessions offered in 2009 to supplement statewide testing. The existing program in Tidewater and the second was in Charlottesville this past fall. Thanks to Lesley Sewell for all of her hard work on this.

We will continue to work on getting this program into schools. Tidewater Community College is reviewing now, and several private high schools will follow suite.

Membership – John Barbieri reported that the overall membership was down about 6.7% for the year. During MANTS, the VTC Conference and the MHASC, the VNLA will have a 50% off membership show special through February 15.

Jeff will have the VNLA displays at these shows and info will also be setup at the CVNLA Short Course.

Public Relations – Mark Maslow reported that it was confirmed that the VNLA Field Day 2010 would be at the Hampton Road Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Virginia Beach on September 8, 2010. He had met with Pete Schultz, Bonnie Appleton, Jeff Derr and Tom Tracy, executive director of the VA Turfgrass Council to consider a joint field day.

The conclusion was that the VTC would not actually "merge" their field day into ours, but would actively help promote it. They asked that we, in return, help promote their field day.

The HRAREC is VERY excited about using their facility as the host site. I toured all 70 acres yesterday and there is definitely enough to keep people busy for the entire day.

The main discussion was on dates. HRAREC with the HRNLA typically has their field day following Labor Day and Pete, the director of the AREC, prefers we try to stick to that date for several reasons: 1. Hotel cost is significantly lower 2. Heat is not as bad.

Legislation – Ed Tankard (see attached report)

Environmental Affairs – Mary Williams (absent) Tom Thompson reported that he will continue working on the groundwork laid by Mary on the invasive plant issues and on the plastics recycling program.

Education – Steve Grigg reported that now that the Field Day date has been established he will start working on the VNLA Summer Tour and Education Program for 2010 and requested suggestions on ideas for the tour and seminars.

Communications – Matt Shreckhise (report emailed) see attached Newsletter Survey Results.

Research – Matt Sawyer reported that everything was set for the Research Reception/Auction in the Camden Lobby. The committee had reduced the guarantee from 250 to 188 for attendance.

Beautiful Gardens® Plant Introduction Program: update – Doug Hensel reported on the success of the initiation of the monthly conference calls by the BG Executive Committee which is helping better coordinate BG activities and providing more input and direction for Lisa.

Beautiful Gardens – Lisa Lipsey (see attached report)

Old Business:

VNLA Positions Statements – Candy Lindenzweig

Credentialing Update on the Priority Access System – Candy Lindenzweig

Provided a final report from this task force that she has been serving on. The PASS will provide businesses with the identification necessary to gain entry to restricted areas following disasters and emergencies (i.e. access to your business property). Time of re-entry would be up to the local emergency incident commander but the PASS would provide the necessary state-wide identification. They are now trying to raise $50,000 to implement the PASS.
additional info, contact the VNLA Office.

**New Business:**
Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors (emailed by Candy Lindenzweig)

**Proposed Slate of Officers/Board of Directors Nominations - 2010**

**Officers:**
- **President** - Ed Tankard (Tankard Nurseries)
- **Vice President** - Mark Maslow (Southern Landscape Group)
- **Secretary/Treasurer** - Steve Grigg (Grigg Design)
- **Past President** - Duane Shumaker (RSG Landscaping & Lawn Care)

**Incoming Board Members for Election:**
- **Technology** - Sonya Westervelt (Saunders Brothers)
- **Legislature** - Steve Moore (Hortica Insurance)
- **Environmental Affairs** - Tom Thompson (Natural Art Landscaping)

**Current Board Members for Re-election:**
- **Beautiful Gardens** – Doug Hensel (Great Big Greenhouse)
- **Certification** – Cheryl Lajoie – Lancaster Farms
- **Communication** – Matt Shreckhise (Shreckhise Nurseries)
- **Education** – Steve Grigg (Grigg Design)
- **Membership** – John Barbieri – (Riverrond Nursery)
- **Public Relations** – Mark Maslow (Southern Landscape Group)
- **Research** – Matt Sawyer (Bennett’s Creek Nursery)

**Terms Expiring:**
- Mary Williams – Environmental Affairs (Dover Nurseries)
- Candy Lindenzweig – Past President (Great Big Greenhouse)

**MANTS Representatives**
- Doug Hensel ’92
- John Lancaster ’02
- Tom Saunders ’96

**Adjourn** – Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5 pm

**Mission Statement:** To Enhance and promote Virginia’s nursery and landscape industry.

**VISION** to become the leader and resource for the Virginia nursery and landscape industry.

**What are member’s problems? How are we going to help them become more successful?**

Respectively submitted,
Jeff Miller, Exec Director

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**Committee Reports**

**Hampton Roads Nursery & Landscape Association (HRNLA Report)**

First and foremost, Thanks to VNLA for their support this year.
- Registration and payment for VCH review classes and testing has never been easier for students. Information and payment processing all at one place at VNLA.org.
- Including HRNLA in the upcoming Growers Guide.
- Special thanks to Duane Shumaker for attending our Summer Cruise. In spite of the rain, over 120 members showed up for great food and networking.

**Scholarships**

Applications are currently being reviewed. There are fewer programs in the area, but applicants are still looking for financial help. HRNLA rewards local students with scholarships that promote our industry. This year’s scholarships will again be awarded at the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course later in January.

**Certification**

HRNLA offers both Advanced Certification and Virginia Certified Horticulturist review classes and testing. We have been fortunate to have a lot of recognition for the added value of these programs in our area. Next week starts the 2010 program, and hopefully members will continue to send employees to gain an edge in their market.

**Membership**

This has been a much neglected part of our organization. Our new chair hopes to change that. HRNLA continues to partner with local organizations as well as those at a state level to increase visibility and value to our members. Our current members have responded to the challenge of the times, and with great passion for our industry. We are fortunate to be able to increase our membership with our review class’s students each year.

Respectfully Submitted Cheryl Lajoie, Chair Certification

**Legislative Report**

- Immigrations Reform is moving slowly with a bill introduced by Congress that will overhaul the H2A program in an AgJobs type of format.
Containers & Fertilizers

*Your Crops Will Love*

Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.

NURSERY SUPPLIES

For almost half a century, Nursery Supplies has been a partner with their Grower customers. They take an active role in developing new methods and products to help increase your productivity and profitability.

The Scotts Company provides growers with a full line of controlled release fertilizers for nursery stock, perennials, and greenhouse crops, among others. These versatile products help you feed your crops uniformly and consistently throughout the entire growing season.

**Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.**

The Scotts Company provides growers with a full line of controlled release fertilizers for nursery stock, perennials, and greenhouse crops, among others. These versatile products help you feed your crops uniformly and consistently throughout the entire growing season.

**Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.**

For almost half a century, Nursery Supplies has been a partner with their Grower customers. They take an active role in developing new methods and products to help increase your productivity and profitability.

Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.

**Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.**

**Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.**

- Suppliers of bulk aged pine bark fines.
- Custom mixes available containing lime, sand and/or minors.
- Fast, dependable service

Memberships:
- North Carolina Association of Nurseriesmen
- Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association

**Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.**

For almost half a century, Nursery Supplies has been a partner with their Grower customers. They take an active role in developing new methods and products to help increase your productivity and profitability.

Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.

**Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.**

For almost half a century, Nursery Supplies has been a partner with their Grower customers. They take an active role in developing new methods and products to help increase your productivity and profitability.

Griffin can supply you with all of your Fertilizer & Container needs.
- H2B reform seems employer unfriendly and unable to fix industry cap problems - Department of Homeland Security will continue employer audits that have already targeted industry members.

- Health Care reform seems likely to produce a bill that mandates insurance for all workers. It will have varied effects on industry depending on status of each employer's current insurance program.

Afghanistan War will see more troops in surge with a signal that our stay is not open ended and has time table for the beginning of withdrawal of surge troops.

President Obama has designated the Chesapeake Bay as a National Treasure and has requested a renewal of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act It appears the there will be more Federal involvement in the development of TMDL's for the watershed.

- Thus the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently issued a NOIAR, a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action proposing to regulate stormwater flow through the TMDL program.

DEQ proposes to expand the Groundwater Management Area and amend the Groundwater withdrawal regulations.

- The State Water Commission is considering water supply legislation with 3 bills: an increase in the penalty for failure to report withdrawal, an increase the withdrawal permit fee, and a bill for DEQ and V DH to enter into information sharing agreement.

- DCR seems intent on introducing legislation that would restrict the use of residential fertilizer

- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Todd Haymore has been appointed as Secretary of Agriculture for the McDonnell administration.

- For 2010 the Legislative Committee will be headed up Steve Moore of Hortica Insurance.

- For 2010 the Legislative Committee will be headed up Steve Moore of Hortica Insurance.

- Lin Diacont will join the Committee and has already been attending meetings on our behalf

- The Ag Business Council will hold its annual Banquet on the 14th of January.

- Ed Tankard, Legislative Chair 2009

Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association 2010 Annual Membership Meeting

at the Baltimore Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Harbor View Room

Thursday, January 7, 2010 7 – 9 a.m.
7:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
7:20 a.m. Meeting Call to Order – by Duane Shumaker, President. He thanked everyone for attending and thanked the generous sponsors who made the breakfast available to members. A complete list is at the end of these minutes.

Guest Introductions

Roger Harris, Interim Head, Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture was introduced and gave a brief update on the Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture. 2009 was a year of change with the continuing budget reductions and retirements. Since 2007, eight faculty have been lost to retirement and these positions are unfilled. The nursery position at HRAREC in Virginia Beach is the top priority position to be filled as soon as they are able to fill positions again. The department has instituted two new majors in Landscape Construction and Environmental Horticulture. The nursery and greenhouse production classes have been combined into one class and is being taught by Holly Scoggins.

Eelco Tinga, President, Southern Nursery Association & Bill Turk, SNA Past President were introduced. Eelco noted that the Southern Nursery Association (SNA) had cancelled the February trade show and would have a meeting on January 22, at the Gulf States Trade Show in Mobile, AL. They were requesting one representative from each member state to attend. The board is being restructured with one representative from each state and George Hackney (FL) will be incoming President. The SNA Research Conference will be held on January 21 and 22 with over 100 presenters. He said that the horticulture industry needs to step up and provide science-based research on the benefits of plants to improve the environment and that there should be tax credits for plants like other energy efficient equipment.

Robert Wright announced that he had officially retired but was still working a couple of days a week on his research projects. He thanked the VNLA for their support and friendship since he came to VA Tech in 1973. He will continue to support the association’s research programs.

Secretary’s Report – Mark Maslow gave a summary review of the minutes from the January 8, 2009 annual membership meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented, seconded and passed.

Treasurer – Mark Maslow reviewed the VNLA year-to-Date Budget and proposed 2010 Budget. Access to the draft of the budget had be sent to members in December and copies of the reports were available on the breakfast tables. It was moved to approve it as presented, seconded and passed.

Executive Committee – Duane Shumaker reported that Jim Snyder,
If you don’t see your ad here, Neither does anyone else!
Call 800-476-0055 or email info@vnla.org for advertising information, today!
Kirk Quillen and Tom Saunders had agreed to work with the Resource Development Committee to help provide the board with oversight and planning on the budget to maintain the sustainability of the association.

Duane noted that there were flyers on the table explaining the 2009 Census of Horticulture which is done every ten years and encouraged all producers to complete the survey by the National Agriculture Statistical Service.

There is also a Farm Transition Workshop scheduled this spring which would be a great opportunity for any business that may be dealing with transitioning from one generation to the next. Details are available in the VNLA Newsletter and on the website.

Committee Reports:

**Beautiful Garden® Plant Introduction Program** – Doug Hensel reported that Dr. Rumen Conev had left Virginia Tech and the Beautiful Gardens program to return to Canada and accept a research position there. The Beautiful Gardens Committee had met in November and re-organized responsibilities and updated the business plan. Lisa Lipsey will continue serving as Program Coordinator as an employee of the VA Tech Department of Horticulture. The Executive Committee has taken on more responsibilities and is having a monthly conference call to move the program forward more expeditiously. The committee consists of Doug Hensel (Chair), Rick Baker, Fred Duis, Roger Harris, Lisa Lipsey and Jeff Miller. Doug thanked the board and membership for their support.

**Certification** – Cheryl Lajoie reported that certification was holding steady on the number of Virginia Certified Horticulturist, review classes were scheduled in Richmond, Suffolk and Fairfax this winter and there will be a review class this fall in the Charlottesville area. Five basic tests are scheduled for this spring and one in the fall and there will be an Advanced test at the MAHSC and one in Richmond in September.

**Membership** – John Barbieri noted that the VNLA was still over 600, even with a 6-7% drop this past year. The committee will be having a trade show special of 50% off new memberships at MANTS, VTC Conference, MAHSC and the CVNLA Short Course.

**Legislation** – Ed Tankard reported that Steven Moore, with Hortica Insurance, will be taking over as Legislative Chair. Water has been one of the big issues in the last several years and will continue to be even more so. The VNLA has joined the Mission H2O group which is working to pull various interest groups together to work on water management plans, regulations and legislation in an equitable fashion. The VNLA will have a table at the Virginia Agribusiness Council’s Appreciation Banquet on January 14 and will be working with the VAC to distribute Violet baskets for legislators, the Governor and government department heads in February.

Charlie Parkerson made a motion that the VNLA should write a letter to Dean Alan Grant in support of filling a vacant Water Quality position at the Painter AREC. It was seconded and passed.

**Public Relations** – Mark Maslow reported that the VNLA Guide to Virginia Growers was a very sought after publication which is mailed to over 3,000 retail and landscape contacts in Virginia and surrounding states as well as being distributed to VNLA members and is available online at [www.vnla.org/search.asp](http://www.vnla.org/search.asp)

**2010 VNLA Field Day** will be at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HRAREC) in Virginia Beach on Wednesday, September 8 with the VNLA summer tour the following day in the Tidewater area.

**Education** – Steve Grigg reported that the plans will begin for the Summer Tour and Education Program for 2010 now that we have a date and location determined for the Field Day. The VNLA board will be meeting with Dr. Alan Grant on January 14 in Richmond to discuss how the VNLA and VA Tech CALS can work together. Dr. Grant is the new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Steve also encouraged members to attend the VA Tech Horticulture Department’s Annual Garden Gala in June at the Hahn Horticulture Gardens, which is a reception and silent auction to benefit the gardens.

**Communications** – Matt Shreckhise gave a brief overview of the recent online membership survey and noted that the compiled results will be in the next VNLA Newsletter. There has been a very positive response the member profiles in the Newsletter and requested suggestions for members to profile in future editions.

**Research** – Matt Sawyer reported that the Research Foundation’s investment funds had almost made a complete rebound from the market losses the previous year. The committee had met on Wednesday morning and had reviewed 14 research grant requests totaling $68,000. $30,000 was awarded in grants and all requests were funded at some level.

**Research Reception/Auction** – Matt Sawyer reminded everyone that this event will be in the Camden Lobby of the Convention Center, today, Thursday, 5-7 pm, immediately after the trade show closes. Tickets are still available at the MANTS registration.

**MANTS** – Doug Hensel reported that the show pre-registration was up, all the booth spaces were sold out with 196 exhibitors on the waiting list, and that there were exhibitors waiting on the street to setup if any current exhibitors did not show up. The show sponsorships were down some from previous years.
There was a special recognition dinner on Tuesday evening celebrating 40 years of MANTS shows, 30 years at the Baltimore Convention Center and recognizing firms who have participated all 40 years. Virginia firms that have been at all the shows are: Ingleside Plantation Nurseries, Tankard Nurseries, Mobjack Nurseries, Wetsel, and Lancaster Farms.

Old Business - none

New Business:
Inequities in accessing sales tax on nursery overwintering structures were discussed by Charlie Parkerson.

There was a discussion on defining terms of VNLA representatives on the MANTS board. It was the consensus that more background/history information was needed and that the board would review this and work on clarifying this issue and establish a structure for this procedure. Suggests included a 6-year rotation and including representatives from retail, landscape and grower sectors. The current VNLA representatives to MANTS are: Doug Hensel ’92; John Lancaster ’02; and Tom Saunders ’96.

Nominations 2010 Officers and Directors – The following slate of officers and directors was presented:

Proposed Slate of Officers/Board of Directors Nominations - 2010

Officers:
President - Ed Tankard (Tankard Nurseries)
Vice President - Mark Maslow (Southern Landscape Group)
Sect/Treasurer - Steve Grigg (Grigg Design)
Past President - Duane Shumaker (RSG Landscaping & Lawn Care)

Incoming Board Members:
Technology - Sonya Westervelt (Saunders Brothers)
Legislature - Steve Moore (Hortica Insurance)
Environmental Affairs - Tom Thompson (Natural Art Landscaping)

Award Presentations

2009 Nursery Professional of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Robert Wright by Fred Duis, 2008 recipient; in recognition of his 35+ years of service to the nursery industry through his research, teaching and extension outreach.

2009 Environmental Steward Award was presented to Dr. Laurie Fox, HRAREC, by Tom Thompson, for outgoing chair, Mary Williams. The award was presented for Dr. Fox’s research, demonstrations and education programs which reflects the VNLA’s objectives of promoting the adoption of Best Management Practices and following horticulture standards that cause the minimal negative impact on our environment.

(see pages 9 and 10 for details on the above awards)
25 Years Service Award was presented to Jeff Miller, VNLA Executive Director, by VNLA Treasurer, Mark Maslow, for his service and leadership as the VNLA executive director for 25 years.

Being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

9:15 a.m. There was a demo review available of current VNLA association management software and new software.

Respectively submitted,
Jeff Miller, Exec. Dir.

THANKS to these Generous Sponsors of the VNLA Annual Breakfast Meeting 2010!

$500 Sponsors
- Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
- Nursery Supplies
- OHP
- Scotts Company
- Southern Landscapes
- Techo-Bloc Corp

$250 Sponsors
- Acer Acres
- Carolina Bark Products
- Colesville Nursery
- Colonial Farm Credit
- Eastern Shore Nursery of VA
- Great Big Greenhouse & Nursery
- Griffin Greenhouse & Nursery Supply
- Guthrie Nursery
- Ingleside Plantation Nurseries
- James River Nurseries
- John Deere Landscapes
- Lancaster Farms
- Lilley Farms & Nursery
- Merrifield Garden Center
- Saunders Brothers
- SunGro
- Tankard Nurseries
- Waynesboro Nurseries

2010 VNLA Board:
(standing l-r) Matt Shreckhise, Cheryl Lajoie, John Barbieri, Sonya Westervelt, Tom Thompson, Steven Moore, Matt Sawyer, Jeff Miller
(seated l-r) Duane Shumaker, Ed Tankard, Mark Maslow, Steve Grigg
**THANKS to these Donors and Buyers at the 2010 VNA Horticulture Research Foundation Reception/Auction!**

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<td>The Scotts Company</td>
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<td>Tideland Gardens</td>
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<td>Wetsel</td>
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<td>Willow Springs Tree Farm</td>
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**Tips – Recycling Poly & Pots**

Recycle #2 and #5 pots, greenhouse film (clear or white), #6 plug trays or any other item that is coded #2, #5 or #6

**Contact:** Steve Wasserman, 410-374-2196, swasserman9@yahoo.com

**Toler Chemicals, Inc. of Plainview, NY** is a large plastic recycling company. They will take any plastic that will melt including polystyrene. Several nurseries on the eastern shore have sent plastic to this company.

**Contact:** Dave Schneebaum, phone - 516.349.0090, fax - 516.349.7035, email - Dave@Tolerchem.com

---

**Zook’s Plastic Recovery**

Recycling Used Ag Plastics

Not currently picking up in Virginia, but will accept deliveries on your truck.

**Daniel Zook**

183 S. Farmersville Rd
Leola, PA 17054
717-656-4422
Daniel@zooksplastic.com
www.zooksplastic.com

**SBC Recycling**

6589 Bennington Chapel Rd
Centerburg OH 43011
740-893-3567 fax: 740-893-3568
Recycling greenhouse poly
Linda Wilson
lwilson@sbcrcycling.com

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**VNLA – Countryside Gardens Recognized by Today’s Garden Center**

Local garden center named one of Today's Garden Center's Revolutionary 100 for the fifth consecutive year.

"It's vital for a business to evolve to meet the changing nature of its local market. We have a select few on our Revolutionary 100 list that have achieved this amazing feat, and by doing so have made the list in each of its five years," says Today's Garden Center editor Jennifer Polanz. "**Countryside Gardens** has not only made the list every year It has been in existence, but It's the only one from Virginia that has done so. That's a pretty impressive standard this retailer has set."

The Revolutionary 100 Garden Center Awards honors independent retail garden center owners for creating and implementing innovative and profitable business management practices Into their operations. The awards spotlight garden centers that stand out for their commitment to leadership and serve as positive role models that others will follow and benchmark their own operations against as a measure of success. Today's Garden Center is pleased to honor these dynamic leaders and share their success stories with the entire Industry. **Countryside Gardens also recently received the Daily Press "Peoples Choice Award" as Best Garden Center in Hampton.**

"Being recognized by our customers and peers in your Industry is Indeed a great honor. It is always appreciated to know that hard work, quality products and great service pay off for you and your employees" says **Tish Llaneza, Countryside Gardens Owner.**

Countryside Gardens combines the necessities of gardening with a unique selection of unusual plants. The attached gift shop is a place of amazement. Gift selections include jewelry, holiday décor, candles, lotions and soaps, specialty foods, statuary, fountains, Red Hat merchandise among other items.

- Tish Llaneza, Countryside Gardens, 220 E Mercury Blvd, Hampton, VA 757-838-1608, tish@countrysidegardens.biz
TELAMON’S flexible and interactive pesticide safety training is recognized by the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services as complying with the requirements for training under the EPA’s Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

WHO NEEDS PESTICIDE SAFETY TRAINING?
The EPA requires that employers take steps to protect two groups of agricultural employees: workers and pesticide handlers. Workers who are involved in the following activities need pesticide safety training: weeding, watering, planting, harvesting related to the production of the plants on farms, forests, vineyards, nurseries and greenhouses. The EPA requires that Worker Protection Standard training be provided in the worker’s native language and within one to five days of employment depending upon the type of work performed.

To help employers comply with EPA requirements, Telamon collaborates with an increasing number of partners that include: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Employment Commission and VA Green Industry.

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING
“Just want to share with you the outcomes of my recent inspection. The pesticide investigator had a very positive impression of the business. He told me that with companies like mine, it was very simple to do his work. I want to thank Telamon for its help and want to reserve a time every year to have pesticide safety classes for the workers.”
— Noel Hernandez, Manager, American Color

PROGRAM BENEFITS
- Telamon Pesticide Safety training is a free, flexible and interactive program that is delivered in one hour for workers to one day for handlers. Customized programs are available for your farm business.
- Workers participating in training receive EPA verification cards. The cards are valid for five years.
- Employers receive a roster complete with names and signatures of trained workers.
- A heat stress presentation with specific information on prevention, recognition and how to act in case of emergency.

TELAMON CORPORATION
Since 1965, Telamon Corporation, a private, nonprofit organization, has been providing resources and training to improve the lives of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and other rural disadvantaged populations. In 2006, Telamon-Virginia expanded its services to provide Worker Protection Standard training in accordance with EPA guidelines to farmworkers throughout the Commonwealth. Since then, over 5,000 farmworkers have been trained.

In 2008, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Virginia Pesticide Control Board presented Telamon’s Trainer and three other individuals with a First Place Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding participation in that year’s Pesticide Safety Education Program.

Call 800-285-1676 or visit telamon.org and learn more about Telamon’s training programs.
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Current Inventory
Plant Pictures
Plant Descriptions
And lots more info...
Legislation - Lighthouse Program Tools

Where to learn about federal actions that could affect your business

Each Lighthouse partner state association has set up a legislative website created by Capitol Advantage. These sites allow you to look up information on your state legislature's activities. They also show the most urgent pending federal action and are directly linked to ANLA's Lighthouse webpage (www.anla.org/lighthouse). The ANLA Lighthouse page has program information and grassroots tips.

Where To Begin

The best way to begin is to visit the VNLA legislative website at www.vnla.org/legislation.htm and click on the “Legislative Update” button. Click on the “take action” button. This will link you to the legislation and what action to take. Check periodically to see what key bills are being considered by Congress that will affect your business.

Again, keep an eye on newsletters as they will be posting articles to keep you informed of pending legislation and emerging national issues. When alerted, please take a minute to write or call your representatives and make your voice heard regarding legislation that will impact your business and the industry.

Tips on Voicing the Concerns of the Green Industry to Congress and the Public

Unsure about how to effectively build a relationship with your elected leaders and staff? Visit the Lighthouse website at www.vnla.org. By clicking on the Legislation button and then the “Legislative UPDATE” button, you can view the Lighthouse Program Grassroots Action Guide, which will guide you through the basic steps to communicating with Congress.

How Do I Look Up My Elected Leaders?

Drop by the VNLA website at www.vnla.org and click on the link to state and federal legislation. Then Click on "Congressional Delegation" where you will see your state's elected officials. If you don’t know who your Legislators are you can look them up by zip code. Here you can link to "Send Message" in order to contact your representative.

Alerts: Only Have A Minute?

The Lighthouse Program Makes It Easy.

We understand that running a successful business is time consuming and, therefore, business people have limited time to follow the political process. Therefore, at key points in the political process when there is an urgent need for the industry to be heard, you will get a Legislative Alert by fax or email, with specific instructions on what is needed. Usually, the Legislative Action website will feature a sample letter which you can personalize and send to your elected leaders by email, mail or fax. It only takes a few minutes to do your part.

How Can I Quadruple the Voice of My Business?

Many industry businesses have at least two, three, or four employees who may want to take an active part in shaping the industry's future, too. Please share this information with them, and encourage them to take part in the program too. If 2,500 industry businesses respond to an urgent call to action, and each has four employees participating, Congress will have 10,000 impressions made!

What if I Am An ANLA Member, Too?

ANLA members have formed the core of the industry's grassroots power base for years. Most are already trained and empowered to take action on issues important to them. When Lighthouse alerts are issued, some members may receive more than one alert, possibly through different communication channels. If so, please take the requested action, and share any extra alerts with a key employee other industry businesspersons. ANLA members also have exclusive access to federal law compliance information, expert legal consultants, and other benefits. For details on membership, visit www.anla.org.

How to Write Letters to Congress Using the Lighthouse Program Web Tools

1. Go to the state association webpage www.vnla.org/legislation and follow the links to the Legislative Action page;
2. Click on Issues and Legislation, then click on Legislative Alerts.
3. View the posted Alerts, and select the appropriate issue.
   4. Enter your zip code for a sample letter. Personalize it, then print and fax, or send as an email.
Good Help Just Got A Lot Easier to Find

As a Green Industry business owner or manager, you know that finding — and keeping — good workers isn’t easy. MÁS has a solution. Capable, reliable, legal labor obtained through the H2 programs. Hard workers who return season after season.

MÁS navigates the complex world of the government H2 programs to furnish foreign workers when you can’t find local help to get the job done. We are experts. Our comprehensive service for one flat fee is everything you need.

We handle all the government paperwork, as well as coordination with Mexican or other foreign entities, to deliver workers who have been recruited specifically for your job. Workers can stay up to ten months a year, and return year after year.

Capable, reliable, legal labor when it’s needed, up to ten months a year, year after year. Call Libby Whitley or any of the MÁS staff today at 1-434-263-4300 and find out how good help just got a whole lot easier to find.

MÁS Makes it Easy.

The U.S. Government H2 programs allows non-immigrant foreign workers to come to the United States to work for employers with seasonal employment needs. MÁS is the leading provider of comprehensive H2 employer services.

Our experienced management and staff includes nine full-time professionals who have specialized H2 regulatory expertise, proven for 300 employers and 5,000 workers in 30 states.

mas labor
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www.maslabor.com • solutions@maslabor.com
The meeting was called to order by Lin Diascont at 9:15 a.m.with the following people present: Lin Diascont, Jeff Miller, Cary Gouldin, Sylvia Wright, Gwynn Hubbard, Rick Baker, Bill Bonwell, Scott Creery, Donna Johnson, Cary White, Mike Dieter, Ned Herod, Cheri Haggerty, Greg Lonergan, Lorene Blackwood, and Joyce Latimer.

Lin welcomes Michael Dieter with Hanover County Public Works. Mr. Dieter gave us an update on Stormwater Management issues.

Legislative – Donna Johnson

Nutrient Management Reporting – After an update from Donna and much discussion on how to deal with this matter the VGIC decided that we need to take a lead in this matter. It was agreed that we suggest using the voluntary program already in place (with possible incentives) and base the program more on current science. It was agreed that the program will have to show more participation from the industry in order to remain voluntary.

Chesapeake Bay Milestones – The State of Virginia has signed on to make these milestones happen. The industry must follow these issues carefully.

President’s Comments - Lin Diascont - Lin attended a reception at Strange’s introducing the new Dean of Agriculture at VA Tech, Alan Grant. His impression of the dean, and his willingness to work with the Green Industry, was good.

We again need to continue to reach out to new members.

We need to be continually vigilant in monitoring the legislative issues that will affect our industry.

Lin will continue to work with the Virginia Commission for Youth Study, and would like to involve industry more in this group. Working existing certification programs into current school programs would be a possible goal.

We will again host a roundtable luncheon at MAHSC. The discussion title is “Crabby about Bay Regulations?”

See attached Presidents Report.

Executive Director’s Report – Jeff Miller

Minutes for October 14, 2009 approval, motion made by Cary White second by Lorene Blackwood.

The Economic Impact Survey will be finished by Herman Ellis on Dec. 15. Scott Sink will do the analysis, hopefully by the end of spring. There is currently $20,000 committed by groups within the Green Industry for the Economic Impact Analysis hopefully there will be more funds available by the end of spring. The VNLA has agreed to make up the difference if funds are still lacking.

Treasurer’s Report – Jeff Miller

See attached report.

Budget Report – Cary Gouldin

Cary suggests that we still need to look for avenues to raise funds other than memberships.

The budget for 2010 was approved, motion made by Lorene Blackwood, second by Bill Bonwell.

Program and Education – Rick Baker

The 2010 Garden Festival will be held on September 11, at The Science Museum of Virginia. The Science Museum wants to partner with us in 2010.

The suggestion was made to charge an entrance fee; the Science Museum would have to allow this.

Communications and Public Relations Report– Sylvia Wright.

Sylvia suggests that becoming a foundation would assist us in fundraising. After some discussion it is suggested we look at grants more before pursuing this avenue. Lin suggests that the new executive council check into both avenues.

See attached report.

Membership

A mailing went out to former members who had not paid yet, and 8 – 10 members have rejoined.

Activities

The theme of “Beyond the Gate” was chosen for the 2010 Student Garden Competition.

The Agribusiness Appreciation Banquet will be held on January 14, 2010. The VGIC membership will again be doing the decorations. Plants are sleeved and landscape installed on the 13th and 14th.

As noted before VGIC will again be hosting a roundtable luncheon at MAHSE discussing Chesapeake Bay Milestones.

Old Business

Chris French with The Chesapeake Bay Alliance had approached the VGIC seeking a partnership. The council has agreed to ask the Alliance to join the VGIC, feeling that we could support him better as a member.

New Business

Cary White presented the nominations for officers for 2010. They are President: Lorene Blackwood, Vice President: Cary Gouldin, and Secretary: Gwynn Hubbard. A motion was made to approve by acclimation by Bill Bonwell, second by Rick Baker and passed.

Future meeting dates will be the 2nd Wednesday of the meeting month.

Activities

State Fair Update – Gwynn Hubbard

The plant sale after the Fair this year made $2629.50. A great deal of volun-
Teer time goes into not only installation of the State Fair Gardens; but also the delivery of plant material, it’s maintenance, tear down of the Gardens (from 8:00 p.m. until we are done on the last night of the fair), and finally the sale itself. The Gardens would not happen without all of the great people who have come out to help over the years. Thank you to everyone involved, the Gardens got many compliments this year as always.

We will again be doing the Roundtable luncheon discussion at MAHSC. The discussion topic for the 2010 luncheon will be Chesapeake Bay Milestones. Suggestions for a speaker would be welcome.

Other Business
Marlene Larios and Luis Coral returned to remind the industry about Telamon Corporation’s pesticide safety training program. The program is free of charge and they will come to the farm or grower for the training. Go to www.telamon.org for more information.

Future meeting dates
Jan. 13, 2010
March 10, 2010
June 9, 2010
Aug. 11, 2010
Nov. 10, 2010

Respectively submitted,
Gwynn Hubbard, Secretary

VGIC - 2010 Officers and Strategic Plans
Richmond, VA… Jan. 15, 2010 … The Virginia Green Industry Council (VGIC) elected 2010 Officers: President - Lorene Blackwood retired from the State Fair of Virginia, Vice-President - Cary Gouldin of the VA Flower Growers Assoc. and Secretary – Gwen Hubbard of the VA State Fair. Membership will be handled by Mary Williams of the VA Nursery and Landscape Association.

As an umbrella association for Virginia’s Green Industry, VGIC’s mission is to unify, strengthen and promote the Industry by encouraging professional practices and principles that ‘Keep Virginia Green and Growing’. The Council intends to continue its focus of an effort to encourage memberships to adhere to the highest environmental and professional standards. VGIC intends to further its recognition as the proactive voice for the Industry, hold events that contribute to its financial stability, and develop transitional leadership within itself to ensure the stability of ongoing activities.

The Council is actively involved in other significant Industry events: the Virginia Agribusiness Council Appreciation Banquet, Arbor Day, and the State Fair Horticulture Gardens; as well as supplies gardening news releases and gardening articles. “It is,” says President Lorene Blackwood, “essential that the Green Industry be a proactive, unified voice showcasing the sound environmental stewardship practices of the industry and promoting the professionalism of all of the members.”

President@VirginiaGreen.org

A Source Guide for Mid-Atlantic Wetland Plants

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VTC members have a definite advantage, as we keep them up to date on the latest research, newest products and environmental concerns that impact our industry. We invite you to join us as we break new ground for the turfgrass industry and continue to make Virginia even greener!

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by mail • by phone • by web

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**Plantsource N.C.** is a plant locator service provided by The Central North Carolina Nursery Association Marketing Group. Fax your want list to Plantsource N.C. Your list will then go out to all CNCNA Marketing Group Members for quotations.

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rapple656@aol.com

**Beeson Rhododendron Nursery**  
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336-431-6212, fx 336-431-0441  
beesonnursery@aol.com  
www.beesonnursery.com

**Bryan Wagoner Tree Farm**  
9948 Kerr Chapel Road, Gibsonville, NC 27249  
336-585-0025, fx 336-585-0039  
bryanwagonertreefarm@aol.com

**Buds & Blooms**  
7501 US 29 N, Browns Summit, NC 27214  
336-656-7819, fx 336-656-7504,  
1-800-772-2837  
budblom@bellsouth.net

**Cam Too Camellia Nursery**  
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336-643-3727, fx 336-643-0840,  
1-800-758-8121

**Clark’s Liner Farm**  
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919-692-1020, fx 919-693-9554  
clarkslinerfarm@hotmail.com

**Foxwood Farms Camellia Nursery**  
480 Foxwood Road, Madison, NC 27025  
336-339-6835, fx 336-427-5817  
foxwoodcamellias@gmail.com  
www.foxwoodfarmsnursery.com

**Gethsemane Gardens and Nursery**  
3707 NC 150 E, Greensboro, NC 27455  
336-656-3096, fx 336-656-3696,

**Gilmore Plant & Bulb**  
9154 Old 421 Road, Julian, NC 27283  
336-685-4431, fx 336-685-0261,  
1-800-543-7537

**Gossetts Landscape Nursery, Inc.**  
7801 Clinard Farms Road, High Point, NC 27265  
336-454-2548, fx 336-454-6347,  
1-800-487-5555 email: ghbnnc@aol.com  
www.gossettsnursery.com

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**Greensboro Shrub Nursery**  
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www.goshrub.com

**Greenthumb Nursery, LLC**  
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1-800-752-6869

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1-800-924-1313

**Irving Farms**  
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irvingfarms@yahoo.com

**JBL Nursery**  
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bell3955@bellsouth.net

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**Lewis Nursery**  
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rayland@bellsouth.net

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336-627-1704, fx 336-627-1704  
reynoldsnursery@earthlink.net

**Shiloh Nursery**  
164 Allen Road., Harmony, NC 28634  
704-546-7582, fx 704-546-5366,  
cell: 704-880-1285  
shilohnursery@yahoo.com,  
shilohnursery@hotmail.com

**Spivey’s Nursery**  
1998 A Beeson Rd., Kernersville, NC 27284  
toll free: 1-888-992-2530, fx 336-992-2531

**Terragen Nurseries, Inc.**  
7512 Doggett Road, Browns Summit, NC 27214  
336-656-0107 fx: 336-643-9849  
terragenics@yahoo.com  
www.terragenonline.com

**Tom’s Creek Farm & Nursery**  
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336-857-2131, fx 336-857-2227  
brandon@tomscreeknursery.com

**Triad Landscape Supply**  
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www.triadlandscapesupply.com

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**Events - WORKSHOP - Producing and Planting Trees Bare Root**

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Beach

Sponsors: Virginia Cooperative Extension
Mid-Atlantic Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture (MAC-ISA)

Instructors: Bonnie Appleton, HRAREC, Virginia Tech, Virginia Beach, VA
Jim Flott, Community Forestry Consultants, Inc., Spokane, WA
Dave Leonard, Dave Leonard Consulting Arborist, Inc., Lexington, KY

Fee: $50 – MAC-ISA members or those attending the April 22/23 TRACE
$75 – non-members or those not attending TRACE

Registration: Contact Nancy Herwig, MAC-ISA (703-753-0499 or macisa@hughes.net)

Limit: 30 participants – pre-registration required (no walk-ins)

This workshop is designed to detail tree root problems resulting from current nursery production methods, and to offer solutions to those problems both during production and tree installation. The workshop will be a combination of classroom instruction and field work to include nursery production options to correct root depth and quality issues, and ways to bare root trees for installation. Participants will have an opportunity for hands-on experience with equipment available for tree bare rooting.

**Registration Form**

Name (for nametag) ________________________________________________

Company name _________________________ Day time phone ________________

Address __________________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State _________ Zip____________________

E-mail __________________________ Fax __________________________

Amount Enclosed: _________ Checks preferred (make payable to MAC-ISA)

____ Visa ____ M/C ____ Discover

Card # ___________________________________________________________

Expiration Date __ __ / __ __ Vcode _________ (3-4 digit number found on sig. panel)

Card holder name and address if diff. from above: ________________________

Send form and payment to MAC-ISA PO Box 1200, Haymarket, VA 20168
or fax 703-753-0869 For more info, call 703-753-0499 or email macisa@hughes.net
### Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 2010</td>
<td>VIRGINIA GREEN INDUSTRY COUNCIL MEETING (VGIC)</td>
<td>Location and Time TBA; Contact: 540-382-0943, <a href="mailto:info@VirginiaGreen.org">info@VirginiaGreen.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 2010</td>
<td>CHANGE TREES CAN RELEAF IN - Mitigating Urban Challenges &amp; Reaping the Benefits - a Trees Virginia Workshop</td>
<td>Location TBA; Contact: 540-382-0943, <a href="mailto:info@VirginiaGreen.org">info@VirginiaGreen.org</a></td>
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<td>Location and Time TBA; Contact: 540-382-0943, <a href="mailto:info@VirginiaGreen.org">info@VirginiaGreen.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14, 2010</td>
<td>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3, 2010</td>
<td>RICHMOND ARBOR DAY - sponsored by the City of Richmond Parks/Recreation &amp; the Richmond Tree Stewards</td>
<td>Byrd Park Carillon, Richmond; Contact: 804-389-8798 <a href="mailto:lseals@comcast.net">lseals@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8-11, 2010</td>
<td>PLANET STUDENT CAREER DAYS</td>
<td>Chattahoochee Technical College, Atlanta, GA; Contact: <a href="mailto:info@landcarenetwork.org">info@landcarenetwork.org</a> 800-395-2522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2010</td>
<td>VIRGINIA ARBOR DAY &amp; NATIONAL ARBOR DAY</td>
<td>Contact: VNLA, 800-476-0055, <a href="mailto:info@vnla.org">info@vnla.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17-23, 2010</td>
<td>TREE RISK ASSESSMENT COURSE &amp; EXAM</td>
<td>HRAREC, Virginia Beach; Contact: 703-753-0499 <a href="mailto:macisa@huges.net">macisa@huges.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2010</td>
<td>VIRGINIA ARBOR DAY &amp; NATIONAL ARBOR DAY</td>
<td>Contact: VNLA, 800-476-0055, <a href="mailto:info@vnla.org">info@vnla.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7-9, 2010</td>
<td>MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY Spring Meeting</td>
<td>Charlottesville, VA; Contact: 703-360-7456 <a href="mailto:cpdhike@aol.com">cpdhike@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14-17, 2010</td>
<td>AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Long Island, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2, 2010</td>
<td>INVESTING IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - Green Roofs</td>
<td>Green Roofs at the Ronald Reagan Conference Center, Washington, DC; Contact: 416-971-44949 x 229 <a href="mailto:isprout@greenroofs.org">isprout@greenroofs.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9, 2010</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE RENOVATION &amp; BARE ROOTING AT PLANTING TIME</td>
<td>by Dr. Bonnie Appleton for the Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners Association; Contact: 757-971-3810, <a href="mailto:esm306@yahoo.com">esm306@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2010</td>
<td>GARDEN CENTERS OF AMERICA'S® SUMMER TOUR</td>
<td>Orlando, FL; Contact: 888-648-6463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3-5, 2010</td>
<td>PANTS</td>
<td>Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA; Contact: 800-898-3411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11, 2010</td>
<td>VIRGINIA GREEN INDUSTRY COUNCIL MEETING (VGIC), Massey Cancer Center</td>
<td>Richmond, VA Time TBA; Contact: 540-382-0943, <a href="mailto:info@VirginiaGreen.org">info@VirginiaGreen.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8-9, 2010</td>
<td>VNLA ANNUAL FIELD DAY &amp; SUMMER TOUR, HRARECS, Virginia Beach</td>
<td>Contact: 800-476-0055, <a href="http://www.vnla.org/fieldday.htm">www.vnla.org/fieldday.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a Current Listing of VIRGINIA CERTIFIED HORTICULTURIST review classes and test dates, go to vnla.org/certification.htm</td>
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</tbody>
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