

# Sustainable Urban Landscape Symposium

## *Talk Descriptions and Speaker Bios*

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; March 14, 2019

### **Nature and Cardiovascular Health**

#### **Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar, University of Louisville, 9:00AM-9:50AM**

This talk will review Dr. Bhatnagar's extensive research on how exposure to nature effects human cardiovascular health.

*Aruni Bhatnagar, Ph.D., F.A.H.A. is widely regarded for spearheading the new field of Environmental Cardiology, Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar, a Smith and Lucille Gibson Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville, has spent more than 25 years studying the impact of toxic substances, tobacco smoke constituents and environmental pollutants on heart disease. He is a graduate of Kanpur University, India and received his post-doctoral training at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dr. Bhatnagar is known for his pioneering work on the metabolism of toxic substances in ambient air and tobacco smoke, and how they affect the development of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. He has published over 280 research papers, commentaries and review articles, and 20 book chapters. A leader in cardiovascular health, he has participated in more than 50 peer-review panels of the National Institutes of Health, and has served as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Acute Coronary Events, as well as the Committee on Long-Term Health Consequences of Exposure to Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. For the last 7 years, Dr. Bhatnagar has served as Deputy Editor of the American Heart Association journal - Circulation Research. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, and the American Heart Association. He currently serves as Director of the newly created Envirome Institute, and the Diabetes and Obesity Center at the University of Louisville and Director of the American Heart Association Tobacco Regulation and Addiction Center.*

### **Wild with Intention: Balancing Humans and Ecology for an Elegantly Natural Garden**

#### **Laura Ekasetya, Lurie Garden, Chicago, 9:50AM-10:40AM**

Lurie Garden's naturalistic planting style connects visitors to an elemental feeling of looking out at a wild prairie or meadow, but at a scale that works for a highly visited park in an urban area. The garden is beautiful and supportive of local ecology, but would likely fail aesthetically without a sensible management plan and thoughtful plant selection. This presentation shows how a resilient Piet Oudolf planting is managed for beauty and ecological benefit.

*Laura Ekasetya joined Lurie Garden in early 2011 as a horticulturist to maintain the integrity of Piet Oudolf's perennial plant design after tending to perennials under research evaluation at the Chicago Botanic Garden. After attending the public opening of Millennium Park in 2004, she visited often watching the garden grow from a field of gallon sized plants to a tapestry of color and texture. Laura moved to become the director of Lurie Garden in 2017 yet still enjoys stalking insects, birds, and other creatures that make the garden their home. She enjoys helping out with community gardens throughout the city and hiking the Indiana Dunes and marshes of the Calumet region.*

## **The Rest of the Story: Soil, Carbon, Water, Climate, and Agriculture**

### **Dale Hendricks, Green Light Plants, 11:10AM-12:00PM**

A deep dive into living- and breathing- soils: Can we have diverse, regenerative and productive gardens and farms while building carbon in soils? Is it all about just minimizing emissions? Where is the "Carbon Action" and how can we as gardeners most productively engage? What is biochar? What roles do life and diverse perennial plant systems play in building carbon in the soil? What is the "Liquid Carbon pathway"?? Is carbon the whole climate story?? What about the water cycles and transpiration?

*Dale Hendricks has been growing and propagating plants professionally since 1975 when he was fortunate to be employed at Green Leaf Enterprises in Lancaster County, Pa. In 1988 he co-founded North Creek Nurseries, Inc along with current owner Steve Castorani in order to propagate and grow perennials and grasses with an emphasis on natives and garden selections of natives. In 2009 he founded Green Light Plants, LLC. To build carbon friendly and regenerative landscapes; growing native, woodland and permaculture plants, organically and joyfully. Since '88 he lives in Landenberg, southern Chester County, Pa with his family where he gardens, propagates plants, and grows good soil.*

## **Plants – More than Just Pretty/Visions of Urban Potential**

### **Laura Kunkle, America in Bloom, and Scott Beuerlein, CZBG, 1:00PM-1:50PM**

Plants are giving back – to you, your family, your work, and your community. This presentation will showcase the transformative work being done by America in Bloom to help communities across the country become more welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefitting from colorful trees and plants; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and plant pride through volunteerism. Learn how America in Bloom connects people with plants by educating consumers on the positive impact plants have on one's quality of life. Scott Beuerlein will finish the session with how horticulture brings meaning and quality of life to urban and suburban dwellers.

*Laura Kunkle is Executive Director of America in Bloom, a 501c3 national organization dedicated to community development through beautification, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, and community involvement. Laura has been with America in Bloom since the organization's inception nearly 20 years ago.*

*Kunkle has her own association management company, Second Wind Management, which provides full-service management to non-profit organizations, including America in Bloom.*

*Kunkle, a graduate of Miami University, resides in Columbus, Ohio.*

*Scott Beuerlein is the Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Scott is Chair of the Boone County Arboretum Collections Committee, past Chairman of Taking Root, past President of the Cincinnati Flower Growers Association, and Past Chairman of the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council. He has published over 100 magazine articles, including the back of magazine columns in Horticulture Magazine and Ohio Gardener, and a monthly blog on the influential GardenRant blogsite. . He is an ONLA Certified Landscape Technician and an ISA Certified Arborist.*

## **Permaculture, Native and Invasive Plants: Building resilience, Diversity and Opportunity**

### **Dale Hendricks, Green Light Plants, 1:50PM-2:40PM**

Permaculture provides us an opportunity to look at our landscapes and the native plant movement with fresh eyes. How can the native plant and permaculture movements inform and enrich each other? How can we add more natives to our diet? Is the real world so simple as “good guys and bad guys”? Must we be at war with invasive plants? Why are they moving and taking over so fast? Can we be a civilization of stewards and gardeners?

*See Dale’s biography above.*

## **Trading Turf for Trees**

### **Chad Peavy, Old Dominion University, 3:10PM-4:00PM**

Changing environmental conditions have led urban planners, engineers, & policy makers to consider landscape-based applications as part of a larger strategy for addressing social needs. Plants are now being valued for more than their aesthetics and this is placing horticulturists in positions where our contribution to the decisionmaking process is greater than ever before. The reorganization and concentration of green space is shifting in an era where policy and the environment are altering the North American landscape. This lecture - Trading Turf for Trees – will examine these changes and explore the green industry’s position to affect a positive influence.

*Chad Peavy is Manager of Landscape Services Old Dominion University, and a ISA Certified Arborist.*

## **Finding Sustainable Uses in Unexpected Plants**

### **Steve Foltz, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, 4:00PM-4:40PM**

We all know sedums go on green roofs and bald cypress is a good choice for rain gardens but dig a little deeper and you’ll find yourself surprised by plenty of lesser known plants that provide sustainable services in the urban landscapes. Steve will talk about his favorites, which are derived by more than 30 years of trialing and observation.

*Steve Foltz, Director of Horticulture at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Steve is responsible for one of the area's largest plant collections that include 3,000 varieties of trees, shrubs, tropical plants, grasses, bulbs, perennials and annuals. His expertise is widely-known in the industry and he is frequently asked to speak to horticulture groups.*

*A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture, he is currently teaching Horticulture at both Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and at the University of Cincinnati. In addition, each year he teaches a series of classes on "Landscaping Your Home." Steve has been a member of the Ohio Plant Selection Committee, serving as Chair of the committee for two years. He is also a member of the Kentucky Plant Selection Committee for the Theodore Klein Award and a member of the International Plant Propagators Society, Eastern Region. Steve was the 2015 recipient of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association’s highest award, the Distinguished Contributor Award.*