

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium

Talk Descriptions and Speaker Biographies

March 14, 2024

Horticultural Zombies – Myths That Refuse to Die

Part 1: Focus on Products!

Linda Chalker-Scott, 9:00AM-9:50AM

Landscape professionals and gardeners alike want the latest plant and soil science information to use in managing gardens and landscapes, but how to tell what's science – and what's pseudoscience? This seminar will provide some guidelines for evaluating articles, books, and electronic resources objectively. We'll then use those guidelines to evaluate some products of interest to "plant people" everywhere, based on the most current and relevant scientific information available.

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Oregon State University and is an ISA certified arborist and an ASCA consulting arborist. She is WSU's Extension Urban Horticulturist and a Professor in the Department of Horticulture. She conducts research in applied plant and soil sciences, publishing the results in scientific articles and university Extension fact sheets. She is currently the editor for WCISA's Western Arborist magazine, the Journal of NACAA, and Editor-in-Chief for Compost Science and Utilization. She is also actively involved in enhancing the scientific literacy of her audiences by teaching them how to assess the credibility of information from print and online sources.

*Linda also is the award-winning author of five books: the horticultural myth-busting *The Informed Gardener* (2008) and *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again* (2010) from the University of Washington Press and *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: Good Science – Practical Application* (2009) from GFG Publishing, Inc., and *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do* from Timber Press (2015). Her latest book is an update of Art Kruckeberg's *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* from UW Press (2019), which has won several national awards since its publication.*

*In 2018 Linda was featured in a video series – *The Science of Gardening* – produced by The Great Courses. She also is one of the Garden Professors – a group of academic colleagues who educate and entertain through their blog and Facebook pages. Linda's educational contributions to science-based information have been recognized by such groups as Garden Communicators International, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, and the International Society for Arboriculture.*

"The Informed Gardener" webpage: www.theinformedgardener.com

"The Garden Professors" blog: www.gardenprofessors.com

"The Garden Professors" Facebook page - www.facebook.com/TheGardenProfessors

"The Garden Professors" Facebook group - www.facebook.com/groups/GardenProfessors

Books: <http://www.sustainablelandscapesandgardens.com>

Bicycling with Butterflies

Sara Dykman, 9:50AM-1040AM

Sara made history as the first person to bike alongside the monarch butterfly on her 10,201-mile journey to help learn more about this keystone species. Join this journey as Sara shares her experiences, stories, and the information we all need to know to help protect, preserve and enhance the pollinators needed for survival.

Sara Dykman is a native of Johnson County, Kansas. Her book, "Bicycling with Butterflies," won the 2021 National Outdoor Book Award. She is the founder of beyondabook.org, which fosters lifelong learners, boundary pushers, explorers, and stewards. She works in amphibian research and as an outdoor educator, guiding young people into nature so they can delight in its complicated brilliance. She hopes her own adventures—walking from Mexico to Canada, canoeing the Missouri River from source to sea, and cycling over 80,000 miles across North and South America (including the monarch migration trip) — will empower young and old to dream big.

A Missing Link in Plant Invasions: North American Public Gardens are Redefining our Views of Invasive Plants

Kurt Dreisilker, 11:10AM-12:00PM

Botanic gardens and arboreta in North America are harnessing their botanical and horticultural expertise to document plant taxa that are escaping from cultivation on their properties. This is accomplished by collecting, synthesizing, and sharing data about the extent that taxa spread from their original sites of cultivation into adjacent areas of their property. By collecting and sharing data from gardens across North America, the working group called *Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants* (PGSIP) aims to provide a clear picture about plants escaping cultivation and potentially becoming problematic before large-scale invasions occur and before commercial adoption of these taxa. This presentation will explore the idea of how PGSIP can help prevent plant species from becoming invasive and help the horticulture industry succeed.

Kurt Dreisilker is the Head of Natural Resources and Collections Horticulture at The Morton Arboretum near Chicago, Illinois, United States, where he plans and implements ecological restoration and horticultural maintenance programs. Kurt's work within a public garden has provided him with a unique perspective on plant invasions since plants from around the world are utilized in many capacities throughout Arboretum programs. He is Treasurer for Midwest Invasive Plant Network. Kurt has a B.S. in plant biology and a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Horticultural Zombies – Myths That Will Not Die

Part 2: Focus on Practices

Linda Chalker-Scott, 1:00PM-1:50PM

In this seminar we'll continue to evaluate information related to practical plant and soil sciences but focus on practices that are commonly recommended for managing gardens and landscapes. The dangers of assuming "cause and effect" based on anecdotal observations will be discussed, and we'll dissect some research articles to show that even scientists can get it wrong.

How the Sustainable Landscape Movement Often Misses the Point - common sense solutions at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

Paul Cappiello, 1:50PM-2:40PM

Gardens are excellent places to employ practices that promote and support healthy ecosystems. That's a no-brainer. But all too often our arguments and justifications for sustainable solutions fly over the head or under the radar of most policy makers, business leaders, homeowners, and gardeners. Even worse, many of the most commonly floated sustainability solutions and strategies are based on unfettered greenwashing or downright bad science. Join us for this energetic look at some of Yew Dell's common sense business decisions (that just happen to meet the mark of highly sustainable solutions) as well as a challenge to some common missteps made in the name of sustainability.

*For the last 20 years, **Paul Cappiello** has served as executive director and chief plant dweeb at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens and before that was horticulture director at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest (Claremont, Ky.) and professor of horticulture at the University of Maine. Throughout his career, Dr. Cappiello has used his acerbic wit to promote science-based and real-world-tested garden strategies and solutions and has never pulled punches be it on stage or in print. He has authored more than 600 publications ranging from newspaper to popular garden press and academic journals. He has been recognized nationally and internationally for his writing, teaching, public speaking and research and is past recipient of the American Horticultural Society's highest honor - the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. Dr. Cappiello is a lifelong competitive runner turned cyclist (due to running-induced bad knees) with both pursuits providing endless opportunities for observing plants around the world in both their natural and cultivated settings . . . and plenty of time for composing his characteristic prose in his loosely organized brain.*

When Trees Stand for a Nation

Neil Hendrickson 3:00PM – 4:00PM

"The theme of the 9-11 Memorial is "reflecting absence", a solemn tribute to the loss of so many lives during the attacks on the World Trade Center buildings, and to the numerous Ground Zero workers who have fallen in the two decades since. Almost 40 percent of those who died remain here; the trees create a landscape cemetery. The 400-plus 9-11 Memorial oaks, and the survivor tree, represent not just reflection and remembrance, but rebirth, resilience, and renewal, in a place more serene than in the chaos of the city.

This talk attempts to tell some of the story of the vision, the efforts, the challenges and the dedication of those involved, and the successes of all these in making the 9-11 Memorial a sacred, sustainable space."

***Neil Hendrickson** retired in 2019 from Bartlett Tree Research Labs where he served as their Northeast Technical Specialist for over twenty years. Neil is a NJ Licensed Tree Expert and has a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ). He now serves as his township's unofficial Arboricultural Consultant, is chair of his township's Environmental Commission, a member of its Planning Board and Open Space Advisory Board, his County's Shade Tree Commission, is on the board of the NJ Chapter of the ISA and is the President of the NJ Shade Tree Federation. He received his BS in Forestry from Cook College/Rutgers University, his MS in Forest Science from the University of New Hampshire, and his PhD in Silviculture and Forest Ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.*

CZBG Gardens and Projects Updates

Steve Foltz, 4:00PM-4:30PM

Steve will bring everyone up to date on various CZBG activities with some stray thoughts added.