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MASTER  
GARDENER  
CONFERENCE**



**CULTIVATE OUR LEGACY**

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**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

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\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

# LETTER FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR



Hello & welcome!

We hope you will join us for IMGCC 2021, which will be held *virtually* from Sunday, September 12, 2021 to Friday, September 17, 2021.

Though a virtual conference was not our original plan, we are excited for this new opportunity to bring our speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities to even more Master Gardeners at a greatly-reduced cost from attending the in-person event (registration for IMGCC 2021 is \$150, with the option to add workshops and conference T-shirts for a small additional cost).

We have been hard at work planning a conference that is truly unique! We have incorporated time for networking among participants, updates from international programs, and the

opportunity to take virtual “tours” of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

All sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later, which means you will have the opportunity to go back and view every session, rather than having to choose among our concurrent sessions.

We know you might have questions about our switch to digital, and I want to take the opportunity to address a few here:

- Keynote and concurrent sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later. The session recording library will be available to only those registered for 6 months after the conference.
- Virtual sessions will be presented on EventMobi, our conference platform.
- In order to prevent webinar fatigue, each day will feature only a few hours of virtual sessions (instead of filling the entire day, as with our in person event).
- Registration cost is \$150, with the option to add workshops and conference T-shirts for additional cost.
- Registration opens April 5, 2021 and will be first-come-first-served, capped at 2,500. Workshops offered during IMGCC have lower capacity limits.
- In advance of the conference, each participant will be mailed a welcome material “swag box”

Please also remember to enter your local EMG projects in the **Search for Excellence** here: <https://imgccsfe.com/sfe/learn-more/>. You can also nominate an outstanding volunteer coordinator here: <https://www.imgccsfe.com/ovc/learn-more/>.

Thank you all for your support of our conference! If you have additional questions about IMGCC 2021, find us online at [www.internationalmastergardener.com](http://www.internationalmastergardener.com).

*We hope you'll join us in September!*

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Kathleen Reed  
& the Virginia EMG program

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Day	Time	Event
Sunday 9/12	2:30 - 4:30 PM ET	Optional conference workshops
	4:30 - 6:00 PM ET	International Spotlight
Monday 9/13	2:00 - 2:30 PM ET	Opening session
	2:30 - 3:30 PM ET	Keynote 1
	3:30 - 4:00 PM ET	Break
	4:00 - 5:00 PM ET	Concurrent 1
Tuesday 9/14	2:00 - 3:00 PM ET	Keynote 2
	3:00 - 3:30 PM ET	SFE
	3:30 - 4:00 PM ET	Break
	4:00 - 5:00 PM ET	Concurrent 2
Tuesday 9/14	7:00 - 8:00 PM ET	Small Group Sessions
	7:00 - 8:00 PM ET	Small Group Sessions
Wednesday 9/15	2:00 - 3:00 PM ET	Keynote 3
	3:00 - 3:30 PM ET	SFE
	3:30 - 4:00 PM ET	Break
	4:00 - 5:00 PM ET	Concurrent 3
Wednesday 9/15	7:00 - 8:00 PM ET	Small Group Sessions
	7:00 - 8:00 PM ET	Small Group Sessions
Thursday 9/16	2:00 - 3:00 PM ET	Climate Change Panel
	3:00 - 3:20 PM ET	SFE
	3:20 - 3:45 PM ET	Break
	3:45 - 4:45 PM ET	Keynote 2
	4:45-5:00 PM ET	Break
	5:00 - 6:00 PM ET	Concurrent 4
Friday 9/17	1:30 - 2:30 PM ET	Small Group Sessions
	2:30 - 3:30 PM ET	Concurrent 5
	3:30 - 4:00 PM ET	Break
	4:00 - 4:15 PM ET SFE & Vol. Coord. Awards	
	4:15 - 5:30 PM ET	Keynote 5
	5:30 - 6:00 PM ET	Closing

**DAY 1**  
SUNDAY  
SEPT. 12

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM ET Workshops  
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM ET International spotlight

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**DAY 2**  
MONDAY  
SEPT. 13

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET Opening session  
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET Keynote  
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET Break  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET Concurrent Session 1

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**DAY 3**  
TUESDAY  
SEPT. 14

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET Keynote  
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET Search for Excellence  
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET Break  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET Concurrent Session 2  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET Small Group Sessions

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**DAY 4**  
WEDNESDAY  
SEPT. 15

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET Keynote  
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET Search for Excellence  
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET Break  
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET Concurrent Session 3  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET Small Group Sessions

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**DAY 5**  
THURSDAY  
SEPT. 16

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET Climate Change Panel  
3:00 PM - 3:20 PM ET Search for Excellence  
3:20 PM - 3:45 PM ET Break  
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM ET Keynote  
4:45 PM - 5:00 PM ET Break  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET Concurrent Session 4

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**DAY 6**  
FRIDAY  
SEPT. 17

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM ET Small Group Sessions  
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET Concurrent Session 5  
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET Break  
4:00 PM - 4:15 PM ET Search for Excellence and Vol. Coord. Awards  
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM ET Keynote  
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM ET IMGC 2023 & Closing



## 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM ET WORKSHOPS (OPTIONAL, CHOOSE ONE)

**About Workshops:** *IMGC 2021 kicks off with a variety of workshops in which attendees can participate. All workshops have an additional cost and a participant cap so make sure to register early! Workshop registration fee covers certain materials, which will be shipped to registrants along with their conference welcome materials; there is no additional cost for shipping of workshop materials.*

*Since workshops all occur simultaneously, you may therefore only attend one. To attend any sessions, including workshops, you must be registered for the full conference. Workshop fees are in addition to the cost of full conference registration. Workshops will not be included in the recording session library.*

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### Moss in the Landscape | Pat Reilly

Have you heard these? “Moss is killing my lawn.” “Make a moss milkshake in a blender to get moss to grow.” “The Rolling Stones gather moss.” Roll yourself into this class for busting these myths, learn how to make the most of moss when it occurs and create a moss garden of your own to take home. This is an R-rated workshop, enjoy a discussion of moss sex... along with the tamer topics of taxonomy, physiology, identification and designing with moss before we get creative and have fun with moss. **Max 30; Cost \$15**

### Cool Tools | Frank Reilly

Starting with Google Earth you will learn how to find your spot, then use such tools as “Web Soil Survey” to learn about your soils, “How’s my watershed” to learn about the water quality where you live, and various lists of plants and animals that can help you identify what you have whether they’re invasive or endangered and what those plants and animals need or how to get rid of them. The more you know about your landscape the easier it is to see what to do! If you write reports for your clients the information and graphics from these web tools will make your presentation shine. **Max 30; Cost \$15**

### Microbes Under Your Fingernails | Gwynee Mhuireach

Accumulating research has improved our understanding of soil microbial life and how it affects the growth, health, and survival of agricultural/horticultural crops. However, we still know very little about how exposure to soil microbes might affect the health of farmers and gardeners who spend a great deal of time in direct contact with soil. In this 75-minute class, Dr. Mhuireach will introduce the body of research investigating human exposure to environmental microbes, including those associated with soil and plants, and their potential health effects. You will also explore microbial sampling methods and citizen science projects that co-create new scientific knowledge through collaborations between stakeholders and researchers. Participants will receive: 1) training on how to collect microbial samples from soil and plant parts; 2) a sampling kit to take home for use in their own garden; 3) basic understanding of visualization methods and emerging concepts regarding human-plant-microbe interactions. **Max 30; Cost \$15**

### Botanical Drawing with a Quick Color Note | Heeyoung Kim

In this hands-on workshop, learn the basics of botanical illustration with artist Heeyoung Kim of the Heeyoung Botanical Art Academy. Session includes learning and practicing illustration with graphite pencil and watercolor. Learn how to best connect your love of art with your love of the outdoors! A art kit will be provided, including paper, pencils, and paint supplies. **Max 25; Cost \$40**

### **Flower Power in Floral Design | Julieta Sherk**

This workshop will cover an overview of floral design history and science. After an arranging demonstration, participants will develop their own designs and present those designs to the class. From garden to vase, you'll learn how to make the most of your seasonal flower harvests. Participants will need to bring their own fresh flowers to the workshop, but will be provided with a vase, plant food, and floral snips. **Max 24; Cost \$35**

### **Garden Photography at the Macro Level | Danae Wolfe**

Learn about a variety of tools and techniques for capturing portraits of flowers and insects. This session will take a deeper dive into photography equipment and techniques while providing time for participants to “play” with their photography equipment as we learn. Please come prepared with some sort of camera equipment, whether a “big” camera (SLR, mirrorless, etc.) or a mobile device equipped with a camera. **40 max, Cost \$25**

### **The Art and Science of Bonsai | Bryce Lane**

Bonsai is an ancient craft that dates back over 2000 years! There are specific cultural practices and techniques that are responsible for creating these unique works of art and for causing dwarfness in these highly maintained container plants. Find out about the history, art, and science that makes Bonsai such a fascinating hobby, and spend a little bit of time actually creating your own Bonsai! Participants will be provided a bonsai pot and wire but will need to have pruners, potting soil, and a small plant on hand for the workshop. **75 max, Cost \$60**

### **Interactive Dialogues for Cultivating A More Culturally-Inclusive Master Gardener Program | Crystal Tyler-Mackey**

This session will provide an opportunity to engage in small group dialogues regarding racial and cultural understanding. Led by a team of trained facilitators, the dialogues will allow sharing of experiences and ideas, and will catalyze new learnings and ideas for connecting with a broader, more diverse set of volunteers, clients and partners. **200 max, Cost \$10**

*\* Workshop length may vary slightly between workshops, but the majority will run 2 hours.*

## **4:30 PM - 6:00 PM ET INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT**

This program will feature a special highlight of the South Korean Master Gardener Program as it reaches its 10-year anniversary. Representatives of the South Korean program will join us to report on the South Korean program and their projects over the last decade.



## 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET OPENING SESSION

Welcome to IMGC 2021! In this opening session we will introduce the Commonwealth of Virginia, cover conference technical details, and notes on the schedule. We are so excited to “see” you in September!

## 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET KEYNOTE

### Nature’s Sustainable System | Cole Burrell

Were you paying attention in science class? If so, you remember the water cycle and the biomass pyramid, right? Nature’s sustainable systems balance inputs and outputs through flows of energy and cycles of nutrients, water, and carbon. Unfortunately, human systems are often out of balance. As a result, they have diminished sustainability. This lecture demonstrates why sustainable landscapes are only achieved when designed to facilitate rather than hinder or interrupt nature’s cycles and flows.

## 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET BREAK

## 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET CONCURRENT SESSION 1

### Marketing to Generation Me | Brie Arthur

‘Marketing to Generation Me’ will inspire Master Gardeners to take the lifestyle of gardening to the next level. Learn from Brie as she discusses opportunities for attracting a new generation to your programs. She explains strategies to connect with and retain millennial-aged customers who have diverse motivations and values. Brie has a fresh take to enhance your relationship with a new generation through the lifestyle of gardening.

### Firewise Landscaping in a Changing Climate | Dave Close

What does it mean to be firewise in our home landscapes? What is the wildland-urban interface and what does it mean for homeowners on a national scale? How can we actively work to mitigate the impacts of wildland fires in our own communities and for our clients? How could our changing climate impact wildland fires and their potential impact on your community? Learn answers to these questions and more.

### Ornamental Plant Breeding and Introduction | Holly Scoggins

Love to learn about fabulous new plants? Dig deeper with a behind-the-scenes look at what inspires plant breeders plus the fascinating (and often lengthy) process of selection and introduction.

### Gardening for Pollinators | Joseph Tychonievich

This session will focus on how the interaction of plants and pollinators produce floral diversity. Learn strategies for building pollinator-friendly gardens in your own region and climate.

### Site Analysis and Design for a Waterwise Landscape | Lisa Sanderson

Evaluating landscapes prior to planting can lead to long-term success of correctly placed plant selections. In this session we will cover performing a proper site analysis from pH and soil to water, topography, identifying location of utilities, climates and microclimates, sun and shade and more. We’ll discuss landscape measurement as well as cover less conventional methods of landscape measurement so you will be able to consider proper scale when designing. We’ll also review principles leading to a waterwise landscape design and cover design tips.

## **The Garden Thyme Podcast | Mikaela Boley, Rachel Rhodes, Emily Zobel**

This session will dive into the world of Podcasts. Speakers will discuss the “how to’s” in reaching diverse audiences through non-formal education. Learn how to start a podcast, which platforms to use, editing, and extras needed to have a podcast. This session will also include tips for interviewing guest, marketing, and social media.

# DAY 3 | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14

## 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET KEYNOTE

### Living in the Human Age | Dennis Dimick

Based on his many years as a picture editor and environment editor for National Geographic magazine, Dennis Dimick presents a fast-moving, vivid slide show lecture that explores and explains the modern human era: how we got here, our current prosperity, and what looms on the road ahead. Dimick frames his visual discussion using an emergent idea called the Anthropocene, or Human Age, a new geologic era proposed by scientists that marks our trajectory and enduring impact on the planet as population rises, and demand for energy and food increases. He addresses accumulating environmental impacts such as pollution and climatic shifts, and how we might productively respond. His goal is to help us appreciate our place in nature and contemplate how we can contribute towards a more balanced future for ourselves and the planet.

## 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

Each day different first place winners in each of our Search for Excellence categories, along with outstanding volunteer coordinator awards, will be showcased.

## 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET BREAK

## 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET CONCURRENT SESSION 2

### Home Hydroponics | Chris Mullins

Learn about constructing, using, and managing a small home hydroponic system. Mullins will cover the need for small-scale hydroponic systems, as well as construction and management of small hydroponic systems. Learn about different types of hydroponic systems and the suitability of these systems to different situations. He will also address how these systems can be used in the community to engage youth and adults in horticulture. In addition to the presentation, there will also be a demonstration of several hydroponic systems along with handling of various components of a hydroponics system.

### Beauty, Integrity, and Resilience | Cole Burrell

Do our gardening practices have a negative impact on the environment? Can we make a difference by changing the way we approach design, plant choice, planting techniques, and maintenance regimes? How do we meet our aesthetic goals while providing the structure and resources necessary to maintain the insects and birds we love? Can we create healthy habitat with a mixture of native and exotic plants? These are a few of the questions to explore in terms of the hallmarks of sustainability when melding aesthetic expectations with ecosystem form and function.

### Cacti and Succulents: Diversity and Cultivation | Dr. Robin Wilson Gorham

Explore the fascinating world of cacti and succulents. Many are drought tolerant plants adapted to hot, arid places. They have an extraordinary range of shape, texture, and form. Join a Green Spring Gardens, VA, Extension Master Gardener to branch out to learn about these beautiful plants, many of which are easy to grow. Stop by to see beautiful photographs!

### The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Nematodes in the Garden | Jon Eisenback

Four out of five animals are nematodes, yet the majority of people are unaware of what they are and what they do. Nematodes are called the hidden enemy of agricultural production because they are unseen, yet they are also called the Holy Ghost nematode, not only because they are unseen, but also they are everywhere. Some nematodes are good. They kill insects and help recycle nutrients in the soil. But other nematodes are bad because they extract an annual tax from most plants that are used for food, fiber, and improving the human condition. Nematodes also cause diseases of animals

and humans. They kill sometimes, but most often they weaken individuals and make them vulnerable to other organisms. Nematodes are microscopic, unsegmented, microscopic worms that are sometimes called eelworms, roundworms, or nemas. Unfortunately nematodes are difficult to control, but the first step is to know that nematodes may be affecting plant growth and the to find out how many and what kinds are present in the soil and sometimes in the leaves.

### **Urban Tree Issues | Kelly Allsup**

In an effort to share the latest research on urban tree health concerns, University of Illinois Extension would like to share its urban tree education program. Whether you are long term gardener or new to planting trees, we hope to teach you updated planting guidelines, recognizing signs of tree stress, and proper tree pruning practices.

### **Community Connections: An EMG Program Supporting an Urban Public Garden | Marylou Wall**

With the lack of funding for public gardens becoming more prevalent, Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) are increasingly asked to support and develop gardening opportunities for the public. In keeping with the EMG mission, “To Share Knowledge and Empower the Community,” Green Spring Gardens (GSG) EMGs collaborated with the staff of GSG, a public urban garden consisting of 22 themed gardens on 33 acres in a diverse urban minority area, to develop programs to improve community outreach. This presentation will address concrete ways of collaborating with a public garden staff to ensure activities are successful and appropriate to meet the needs of the community while ensuring the mission of the EMG program is accomplished.

## **7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET SMALL GROUP SESSIONS**

Small group sessions are an opportunity to discuss horticultural or community engagement topics with other EMGs from around the nation. Small group topics be released in advance via EventMobi. Since we’re not in person, small groups are a way to connect with EMGs outside your area around topics of interest. 5 small group sessions will be offered during each time frame. Sessions will have a participant cap.

## 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET KEYNOTE

### Plant Science to Make You a Better Gardener | Joseph Tychonievich

Join Joseph Tychonievich to take a deep dive into plant science in a fun and easy-to-understand way. Join speaker Joseph Tychonievich as he shares practical ways you can use an understanding of plant science to work better in the garden.

## 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

Each day different first place winners in each of our Search for Excellence categories, along with outstanding volunteer coordinator awards, will be showcased.

## 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET BREAK

## 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET CONCURRENT SESSION 3

### Growing Together Iowa: Master Gardeners Supporting Community Donation Gardens | Christine Hradek and Katie Sorrell

Over the past five years, Growing Together Iowa has donated 441,000 pounds of produce to local food pantries. Master Gardeners play a critical role in this project. Discover how you can establish, fund and sustain this type of work in your own state!

### The Future of Boxwood | Bennett Saunders

Boxwood have been a mainstay in formal gardens for hundreds of years. Their popularity has largely been due to their survival and success with minimal care. Today, boxwood blight threatens the “aristocrat of plants.” But thanks to American scientists and careful analysis, answers are here!

### Plant Roots and Fungal Partners | Dr. Paulette W. Royt

Mycorrhiza is the symbiotic relationship between some soil fungi and plant roots. This session will cover this relationship, as well as the diversity of the mycorrhizal fungi and the role the mycorrhizal fungi play in soil structure, plant nutrition, ecosystem diversity, and everyday gardening.

### Henrico Bug Bizarre! An Entomological Outreach Program | Ed Olsen

Learn about the Henrico Bug Bizarre! entomological outreach program and how you can have your own bug festival. The Henrico Bug Bizarre! was an integrated program that incorporated youth, entomology and many partners. In addition to the live and displayed insects, there were a variety of other outreach activities such as children’s activities where youth learned the life cycles of insects, photo booths, and a crowd favorite: Madagascar Hissing Cockroach races. Through the event, participants received information not only about pollinators and butterflies but on mosquito management, Spotted Lanternfly and other urban forestry invasive pest awareness, vermicomposting, water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring, common lawn and garden pest management and proper pesticide use.

### Resurgence of Pollinator Hedgerows: Using Science to Create a Pollinator Oasis in Your Backyard | Heather Andrews

This presentation will cover the resurgence of the pollinator hedgerow, “wildflowers instead of chemicals” movement. You will learn: how configuration and localization of small urban gardens affects colonization by monarch butterflies, why

attracting bumble bees should be priority for your garden over honeybees, what you should consider planting to maximize visitation of pollinators, and how attracting bats, birds, and good bugs can eliminate what you don't want and give you more of what you do want.

### **Luscious Landscaping with Fruiting Trees, Shrubs, and Vines | Lee Reich**

Luscious landscaping is the way to beautify your yard and to put (very) local, healthful, flavorful food on the table. Introducing some of the best trees, shrubs, and vines that offer luscious fruits yet provide stunning flowers in spring, attractive shape and color through summer, bright colors in autumn, and/or neat form in winter. For landscaping, the ideal plant is also low maintenance, being pest-resistant and requiring little or no pruning. A small yard is no impediment to landscaping with fruit as long as attention is paid to choice of plant (or rootstock), siting, and pruning.

### **7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET SMALL GROUP SESSIONS**

Small group sessions are an opportunity to discuss horticultural or community engagement topics with other EMGs from around the nation. Small group topics be released in advance via EventMobi. Since we're not in person, small groups are a way to connect with EMGs outside your area around topics of interest. 5 small group sessions will be offered during each time frame. Sessions will have a participant cap.



# DAY 5 | THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16

## 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET CLIMATE CHANGE PANEL

From changing USDA hardiness zones to invasive species, climate change will continue to have numerous effects on the gardening world throughout the coming decades. Join university experts as they discuss impacts of climate change on a national and international level, how home gardeners will be affected, and what we can do.

## 3:00 PM - 3:20 PM ET SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

Each day different first place winners in each of our Search for Excellence categories, along with outstanding volunteer coordinator awards, will be showcased.

## 3:20 PM - 3:45 PM ET BREAK

## 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM ET KEYNOTE

### The Foodscape Revolution | Brie Arthur

Keynote speaker Brie Arthur will discuss foodscaping, a sustainable landscape practice that embraces beauty and bounty. Aiming to change the way landscapes are designed and managed, Brie encourages everyone to “think outside of the box.” Learn how pairing edibles in a traditional ornamental landscape increases bio-diversity and adds purpose to everyday spaces. The best edible and ornamental plant combinations are featured to inspire attendees to create purposeful landscapes that engage people of all ages! Easy strategies are explained, including how to plant a bed edge to deter moles and voles. This is a fast paced, informative presentation that leaves attendees inspired and ready to foodscope!

## 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM ET BREAK

## 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET CONCURRENT SESSION 4

### Planting Seeds of Hope: Cultivating, Nurturing, and Replicating a Horticultural Therapy Program | Kathleen Wellington

With therapeutic gardening becoming more popular, Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) are increasingly asked to develop educational opportunities for individuals with special needs. Inherent in these requests come challenges to ensure activities are successful and appropriate to the needs of the individuals and EMGs. Recognizing this, Green Spring Gardens EMGs developed a specialized approach, highlighting two therapeutic gardening projects. The Fairfax County, VA, funded Woodburn Crisis Center and the non-profit Fort Belvoir, VA, United Service Organizations (USO) program for service personnel in a military in-patient substance abuse program, were initiated in 2016 and are still in operation to date. This presentation will address replicable ways of collaborating with program staff. Practical examples will include therapeutic horticulture training adapted for EMGs, ways to cultivate collaborative relationships with program staff, and the development of replicable training materials.

### HortEcology: Lessons from Wild Plant Communities | Kelly Norris

Kelly's love for native plants and his experiences with wild plant communities have shaped his career in profound ways. As a so-called hort-ecologist, Kelly strives to interpret native ecosystems into beautiful, functional landscapes in the urban context. Too often, professional horticulturists appropriate plants as if they were inanimate objects, instead of truly understanding how plants interact and function within the landscape environment. Join Kelly in an exploration of wild plant communities and their constituents from across North America that will inspire and inform your practice whether as a grower or admirer.

## **From Dirt to Gold | Leonard Githinji**

Most successful gardeners understand that maintaining a good-quality, healthy soil is absolutely necessary for crop production. For this session, we will have an in-depth discussion of the best strategies to build a healthy soil that is both productive and sustainable in the long run for your garden. The session will include a hands-on exercise on some soil management practices for assessing the health of your soil.

## **Online Training Resources for Agent and Volunteers | Lucy Bradley, Aly Kaba**

North Carolina State has partnered with Top Hat Monocle to create an online training tool that can be used to create locally tailored classes that can be offered face-to-face, fully online, or anything in between. Agents can use the platform to teach introductory or advanced EMG classes and/or public classes. You can easily tailor the material to your local climate. Classes can cover the entire curriculum or can focus on one topic. The materials are based on the Extension Gardener Handbook, [go.ncsu.edu/eg-handbook-intro](http://go.ncsu.edu/eg-handbook-intro). Each chapter includes PowerPoints, homework, handouts, a quiz, and 4-6 interactive activities that can be used as stations in a face-to-face class or as on-line exercises. We will introduce the materials and explain how they can be accessed and modified by agents and how volunteers can participate in the course as an independent study.

## **True Confessions of a Narcissus Lover | Michelli Booker**

Daffodil? Jonquil? Narcissus? Which is it...? How can you tell? This session isn't necessarily everything you wanted to know and were afraid to ask...but close to it! It's an informative session on one of the best known globetrotters of the world's gardens and gardeners. We'll look joyously at that quintessential burst of spring and the many categories of this bounteous beauty which both dances with and warms poet's hearts.

## **Gardening with Aches, Pains and Injuries | Pat Reilly**

Gardening benefits the body, mind, and spirit. At any age, gardeners may have aches, pains, and injuries and none should get in the way of having a beautiful and enjoyable landscape! It is more than just tools, though. I will provide tips on avoiding or decreasing discomfort while gardening and get you to rethink bed locations, plantings, and paths. Unconventional landscape beds will be featured...all to make it possible to continue to reap the health benefits that gardening offers!

## 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM ET SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

Small group sessions are an opportunity to discuss horticultural or community engagement topics with other EMGs from around the nation. Small group topics be released in advance via EventMobi. Since we're not in person, small groups are a way to connect with EMGs outside your area around topics of interest. 5 small group sessions will be offered during each time frame. Sessions will have a participant cap.

## 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET CONCURRENT SESSION 5

### Evaluating EMG Projects | Dennis Patton

Evaluation is a critical piece of successful and impactful EMG programming. Learn about a how implementing a Project Review Committee (PRC) could help enhance your local EMG programs. The goal of the PRC process is to determine if projects are meeting desired educational or support goals, to address potential issues with programming, and to enhance the project to better fit the overall EMG program goals.

### Climate Change and You | Frank Reilly

No matter what the politics of the situation, climate change is here and still coming. The effects of climate change are far more subtle than simply "warmer summers," and produce far more impacts. You may be impacted by climate changes far from your home grounds, but you can adapt to climate changes and mitigate against them with real practices in your own spaces. Many speakers talk about the gloom and impact of climate change, but few offer in-depth, specific advice that you can use to prepare yourself, your yard, and your community. In this talk you will get specific advice to help you cope. You will learn how to think about plant choices that are sustainable in the landscape AND benefit your home landscape. You will learn how to plan for changes that can increase storm damage and storm debris, shifts in temperature that may bring release of new pests and diseases, and changes in the precipitation amounts and timing.

### These are NOT Your Grandma's Annuals | Pam Bennett

Remember the days of deadheading annuals to keep them looking great? And having to water continually for them to survive? Many of today's annuals have been bred to keep on blooming all season long without additional work in terms of deadheading. Join Pam on this fast-paced, colorful trip through the best of the best annuals--that require MINIMUM maintenance! Participants will learn about the field trial research conducted at The Ohio State University, the importance and value of trials, as well as those plants that can be used in the landscape with minimum maintenance. Pam also shares how to use these plants, such as in containers, hanging baskets, or flower beds.

### Honey Bees: The Canary in the Coal Mine | Betty Robison

Raising honey bees has taught us to look to them for answers for what is happening in our environment. Habitat loss, inappropriate pesticide use, and climate changes have brought about severe consequences to the honey bee population and pollinators at large. Extension Master Gardeners have an opportunity to educate and change the perspectives within communities resulting in improved landscapes. This educational session will provide a look through the eyes of a honey bee, and how our efforts in planting, simple solutions for managing pests and diseases, and growing the plants with the highest nutritional values, can make a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of our pollinators.

### Virtual Classes and The New Normal: Lockdown Learning Produces a Homegrown Crop of Master Gardeners | Bill Lester, Katelyn Brinkerhoff, and Jamie Daugherty

In this session, participants will engage in small group discussions about Extension Master Gardener training models, share tools for making the Master Gardener training more hands-on on, and provide input on how to attract new audiences to the Master Gardener program.

## Using your garden to Grow Good Kids! | Lisa Whittlesey

Many of us may have experienced the wonder and excitement of taking children into the garden. However, this session will focus on the “why it works” including some of the science and best practices that will allow you to make the most out of this outdoor experience for your children. Come join the fun and learn about the positive impacts of youth gardening! You will leave this session being able to implement best practices to actively engage children in the garden, integrate STEM and literature in the garden, use the garden to improve child nutrition and engage the family, review current research and trends related to youth gardening, locate resources to support youth gardening, and identify best practices for creating sustainable youth garden programs.

### 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET BREAK

### 4:00 PM - 4:15 PM ET SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AWARDS

Each day different first place winners in each of our Search for Excellence categories, along with outstanding volunteer coordinator awards, will be showcased.

### 4:15 PM - 5:30 PM ET KEYNOTE

#### Planting for the Future | Kelly Norris

Modern gardens must be more than beautiful--they must celebrate biodiversity and create tangible connections to our environment. Gardening with purpose is the new mantra as 21st century consumers seek to garden with greater purpose, creating gardens that benefit wildlife, feed us, enable greater public engagement, mitigate stormwater, and more. The plants of our future and the recipes for using them might surprise you. In this lecture especially tailored to garden enthusiasts, plantsman Kelly Norris challenges audiences to plant more diverse gardens, while maximizing aesthetics and functionality through contemporary design. The synergies of people, plants, and passion collide for a beautiful, surprising, and ecologically conscious look at the New American garden.

### 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM ET CLOSING AND IMGC 2023

Closing remarks from the Virginia EMG program and introduction of IMGC 2023, which will be held June 18-22, 2023 in Overland Park, Kansas.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOS



**Brie Arthur:** Best-selling author and horticulturist, Brie Arthur has garnered acclaim for her enthusiastic presentations and practical, out of the box gardening advice. Originally from southeastern Michigan, Brie Arthur studied Landscape Design and Horticulture at Purdue University. With more than a decade of experience as a grower and propagator she now shares her expertise as an advocate for consumer horticulture and home gardening across America.

Brie is an ambassador for Soil3 organic compost and has appeared as a correspondent on the PBS Television show “Growing a Greener World.” She is President of the International Plant Propagators Society Southern Region and is on the board for the North Carolina Botanic Garden Foundation. Brie was honored as the first recipient of the The American Horticultural Society’s Emerging Horticultural Professional Award for her efforts in connecting a new generation to the art of growing. In her second book, *Gardening with Grains*, published by St Lynn’s Press, Brie explores the opportunities in residential and commercial landscapes with creative and thoughtful uses for traditional agricultural crops.



**Cole Burrell:** Cole Burrell is an acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, award-winning author, and photographer. A certified chlorophyll addict, Cole is an avid and lifelong plantsman, gardener, and naturalist.

He has twice won the American Horticulture Society Book Award for *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*, Timber Press (2007) and for *A Gardner’s Encyclopedia of Wildflowers*, Rodale Press (1998). Cole received the Award of Distinction from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers for his work promoting sustainable gardening practices.

Cole is a popular lecturer internationally on topics of design, plants, and ecology. He has shared his love of plants and regional landscapes with professional and amateur audiences for 40 years. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design.



**Dennis Dimick:** The son of fisheries biologists, Dennis Dimick grew up on a sheep and hay farm in the U.S. Pacific Northwest near Portland, Oregon. After completing agriculture and agricultural journalism studies at Oregon State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dennis in 1974 began a four-decade journalism career that included more than 35 years at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., where he served as a photography editor and for a decade as the magazine’s environment editor.

With a focus on the collision between human aspiration and the planet, his National Geographic work included orchestrating major magazine projects on energy, climate change, soil conservation, global freshwater, world population, and the future of food security. Dimick lectures on the emerging Human Age or Anthropocene epoch, and his new *Eyes on Earth* project with photographer Jim Richardson emphasizes seeing the Anthropocene and its meaning.



**Kelly Norris:** Kelly D. Norris is an award-winning author and plantsman from Iowa and the director of horticulture and education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, a revitalized public garden in Des Moines, Iowa. Throughout his career, his work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Organic Gardening*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Garden Design*, and in numerous local and regional media outlets. In 2019, Kelly joined *Cottage Farms Direct* on QVC as a guest host. At the Botanical Garden, Kelly is responsible for leading and directing a team of horticulturists and educators in all aspects of design, curation, programming, and garden management, after serving as the principal horticulture consultant to the \$18 million renovation project completed in 2014.



**Joseph Tychonievich:** A life long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph has worked for nurseries in the U.S. and Japan, has been a repeated guest on public radio's food show *The Splendid Table*, and was named by *Organic Gardening Magazine* as one of "...six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens." Joseph is the author of *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener*, *The Complete Guide to Gardeners*, and *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style* and is the editor of the *North American Rock Garden Society* quarterly journal. Currently Joseph lives with his husband, two cats, a dog, and an absurd number of plants in Williamsburg, Virginia.



## CONCURRENT AND WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

**Bennett Saunders:** Bennett grew up working in the family orchards and nursery in Nelson County, Virginia. After college, he returned to a partnership with his four brothers and dad. Together, over a period of 30 years, the family grows ornamental plants on 100 acres of greenhouses and 150 acres of nursery field production, as well as maintain and harvest 175 acres of orchard. With the advent of Boxwood Blight in 2011, Bennett's focus turned towards the nursery's boxwood germplasm collection, where he has helped to identify boxwood with better tolerance of Boxwood Blight. Bennett has served the industry over the years including service as the president of the International Fruit Tree Association, president of the Virginia Horticulture Society, and president of the American Boxwood Society.

**Betty Robison:** Betty Robison is a Penn State Master Gardener Emeritus of Washington County, Pennsylvania. She and her husband own Robison Acres Plant Sanctuary located in Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. Their property was designated as a Pennsylvania Wild Plant Sanctuary in 2010, and they operate a nursery following a strict organic approach, along with an apiary. They work with beekeepers and the public on improving their landscapes to benefit pollinators. Betty has spoken at numerous master gardener conferences, at local garden clubs, at state conferences for professionals in therapeutic recreation, and to activity personnel in long term care facilities in an effort to engage older adults in gardening activities especially those individuals with dementia. She was awarded a certificate in excellence for horticultural therapy in 2000.

**Bill Lester:** Dr. William Lester holds a graduate degree in Plant Medicine from the University of Florida and currently works for UF/IFAS Extension in Hernando County, FL. Combining a mix of horticultural knowledge and management skills, his current responsibilities include teaching the public and working closely with county and professional clients. As a frequent guest on radio and writing for local newspapers, his goal is to put complex scientific findings into language that can be understood and applied by school age children and adults.

**Bryce Lane:** Bryce discovered his passion for plants and telling others about them while working at a small Massachusetts garden center throughout high school and college. After earning his B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture, he came to the Department of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University as an Instructor and Undergraduate Teaching Coordinator. He spent thirty-four years teaching and advising over 20,000 students. Although Bryce retired in 2014, he still teaches part-time at North Carolina State. For eleven seasons he hosted and produced the three-time, Emmy winning, UNC TV public television show "In the Garden With Bryce Lane." He now spends his time giving horticulture talks, leadership and communication training, and teaching part-time at North Carolina State and the JC Raulston Arboretum. He has also worked closely with North Carolina Extension and the NC Nursery and Landscape Association for many years. Bryce is now featured as the host of Logan's Garden Shop Podcast. As an avid gardener in his spare time, Bryce has creatively cultivated the same one quarter acre plot for thirty-six years. He and his wife of forty-two years also enjoy spending time growing and making memories with their six grandchildren!

**Chris Mullins:** Chris Mullins has a B.S. and M.S. in Biology and more than 25 years of experience in greenhouse production of horticulture crops, including owning and operating greenhouse operations, and 20 years of experience in research and extension/outreach. He currently serves as Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for Greenhouse and Specialty Crops at Virginia State University with responsibility for leading and managing the state-wide extension program in the area of protected culture of horticulture crops. His current areas of research and extension work include: hydroponics, greenhouse management, specialty crops, vegetable production, irrigation, high tunnel crop production, and aquaponics. Chris has been co-principal investigator on more than \$1,000,000 in grant funded projects in the last 10 years and authored or co-authored more than 10 extension and journal publications. Chris can be seen monthly on the TV show Real Virginia on the gardening segment From the Ground Up.

**Crystal Tyler-Mackey:** Crystal Tyler-Mackey's academic career began at Virginia Tech, where she earned a bachelor's degree in family and child development. After graduation, she studied at the University of Maryland at College Park, earning a master's degree and doctorate, both in family studies. Before accepting her current position, Tyler-Mackey worked as an educator and researcher at the University of Maryland, as a 4-H agent and unit coordinator for Virginia Cooperative Extension's Richmond City Office, and as a community viability area specialist for the Southeast District with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). Dr. Crystal Tyler-Mackey currently serves as the Extension Leader for Inclusion and Diversity for VCE.

**Dave Close:** Dave has worked with the Extension Master Gardener program for more than 11 years. Prior to coming to Virginia, he was the Community Forestry Coordinator for the southern 36 counties in Illinois, a role he filled for nearly seven years. He was also an instructor in the Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University where he taught classes in tree identification, forest ecology, forest ecosystems, and urban forestry. After leaving Illinois and taking on his role as the State Coordinator for the Extension Master Gardener Program, his interests have evolved into volunteer management and leadership development of volunteers. He also works closely with Extension Agents statewide and the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association.

**Dennis Patton:** Dennis' primary focus with Johnson County Extensions is ornamental horticulture. He directs an EMG program of over 450 volunteers. Johnson County, Kansas is part of the metropolitan Kansas City area. EMG programming is diverse including demonstration gardens, hot-line, speakers bureau, youth education and more. Dennis is popular garden writer in the Kansas City area with a personal column in The Kansas City Star, as well as other outlets. He has twice been recognized as a national winner for personal column by the National Association of County Agriculture Agents.

**Ed Olsen:** Ed began his position as the new Extension Agent for ANR-Horticulture in Henrico County in 2016. He brings with him a strong background in horticulture, floriculture, greenhouse production and management, landscaping, forestry, small engine repair, Future Farmer's Association (FFA), and 4-H, having been an Agriculture Education teacher at Powhatan High School. Ed received his undergraduate degree in Horticulture at Virginia Tech and also his master's degree in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Tech.

**Frank Reilly:** Frank Reilly has worked with water quality and water resources for most of his career. Recently, he completed the largest water footprint ever done for the US Army, and then used that to determine the vulnerabilities due to water (flood, drought, sea-level rise). Recently, he has been involved with estimating water vulnerabilities in our supply chains, and to evaluate aquifer protection in San Antonio, TX. He is a certified nutrient planner in Virginia and deals regularly with landscape-level practices involving water.

**Gwynne Mhuireach:** Gwynne Mhuireach was born and raised on a small farm near Klamath Falls, Oregon. She has been a member of the Biology and Built Environment Center at the University of Oregon since 2009. Gwynne currently studies microbial communities associated with plants and soil in urban environments, as well as those found inside buildings. Ultimately, she hopes to develop strategies that urban planners and designers can use to improve the design and management of future cities where the majority of global human populations will live.

**Heather Andrews:** Heather, one of 13 grandchildren, was inspired by her Grandfather to create pollinator hedgerows after her Grandfather taught her that his vegetable garden yields were higher the years that his beehives were healthy. She documented the success of mixing native flowers with vegetable gardens, and created a videolog on Facebook, The Thoughtful Gardener. Her videos have garnered over 40K views, as she provides practical tips and tricks to attract native pollinators in her monarch waystation, Cat-a-pillar Haven. Her photographs, articles, and gardens have been featured in magazines, and she is a routine native garden contributor to radio broadcasts.

**Heeyoung Kim:** Heeyoung Kim, known as 'Wildflower Painter', paints and documents native plants in watercolor, graphite pencil, and ink in a traditional/scientific way, yet with a touch of modern edge with her keen sense of

composition and mastery of the media she uses. Her numerous awards have proven her versatility. Her watercolors and graphite pencil drawings received 4 awards from New York International HSNY/ASBA including Best of Show (2012), RHS Gold Medal (2012), and her 3 watercolors are included in Prince of Wales's Transylvania Florilegium. She exhibited her ink illustrations at Margaret Flockton Award (2010, 2013), and 2 works in watercolor and ink at Hunt 13th International (2010). She has mounted five solo exhibitions and exhibited in numerous international juried group exhibitions.

**Holly Scoggins:** Holly Scoggins, Ph.D., is an associate professor emeritus from Virginia Tech. She retired in January 2020 after 20 years in the Department of Horticulture with teaching, research, and Cooperative Extension responsibilities to join the AmericanHort team where she serves today as VP of Educational Programs. Holly received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Georgia and her Ph.D. in Horticultural Science from North Carolina State University. Holly is President-elect of the national Perennial Plant Association and enjoys sharing her love of plants and the green industry at state, regional, and national gardening and professional conferences and symposia. She loves being outdoors hiking and fishing, is a beekeeper, and enjoys time with her pups, Bunny and Pepper. Holly and her husband Joel Shuman own Bee Berry Farm, a you-pick blueberry farm and apiary in southwest Virginia.

**Jon Eisenback:** Dr. Eisenback holds a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from North Carolina State University and is currently a Professor of Nematology at Virginia Tech. He is a Fellow in the Society of Nematologists, a EUMANE Scholar, was a First Prize Winner of Nikon's Small World Photography Contest, and is a Past President of the Society of Nematologists

**Julia Sherk:** Professor Julieta Sherk fosters critical thinking, enhances problem solving for her students by infusing service learning, and uses evidence-based approaches in her teaching (7 different classes in landscape design, landscape architecture and floral design) and research. She has executed 33 service-learning projects with her students across communities in NC, and internationally. She has published in peer-refereed journals and delivered effective presentations locally and globally.

**Kathleen Wellington:** Kathleen Wellington is a Virginia Licensed Professional Counselor, spending 40+ years working in behavioral health field in administrative and clinical positions. Prior to her retirement, she served as Vice President of Clinical Services for a local non-profit and worked part-time as a therapist specializing in anxiety and affective disorders. Her passion is horticulture therapy. She has taken certificate courses in horticulture therapy and worked throughout her career developing, implementing, and consulting on various horticultural therapy projects. Kathleen presented at the United States Botanical Garden, Washington, DC and at several National Horticulture Therapy Association conferences including, in 2018, on the Green Spring Gardens Extension

**Kelly Allsup:** Kelly Allsup is a horticulture educator for the University of Illinois Extension serving Livingston, McLean, and Woodford Counties. She serves the educational needs of her community, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalist volunteers through an expertise in home horticulture and entomology. Her passion for ecological gardening and all things plants makes her a dynamic speaker on topics that range from beneficial insects to urban trees. She writes a column for the Pantagraph entitled Green Thumb Gardening and a blog called Flowers, Fruits and Frass. She extends her expertise to the University of Illinois Extension Facebook Live with the Horticulturists and makes appearances on the WILL Mid-American Gardener show. She has won an award for her work on educating on pollinators in the YouTube series Good, Bad and Lovely. A graduate of the University of Illinois, she connects the latest horticulture research to the community she serves.

**Lee Reich:** Lee Reich, Ph.D., is a scientist, an avid farmdener (more than a gardener, less than a farmer), and writer. After work in agricultural research for the USDA and Cornell University, he turned to free-lance writing and lecturing. In addition to authoring a number of gardening books, he has written a biweekly gardening column for the Associated Press for the past 30 years. His farmden provides a testing ground for innovative techniques in soil care,

pruning, and growing fruits and vegetables, and helps satisfy his educational mandate with workshops and training.

**Leonard Githinji:** Dr. Leonard Githinji has a Ph.D. in Agronomy and Soils, an M.S. in Physical Land Resources and a B.S. in Agriculture. He has more than 10 years of research, teaching, and Extension experience at various institutions across three continents. He currently serves as an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist of Sustainable and Urban Agriculture at Virginia State University, having served as a Horticulture Specialist at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and in a similar capacity at Tuskegee University in Alabama. He has been awarded 10 competitive grant projects as a project investigator (PI) adding up to over \$2.3 million and a further \$2 million as a Co-PI. These grant projects cover several disciplines, including: i) urban and sustainable agriculture, ii) organic agriculture, iii) enhancing the viability and sustainability of limited-resource farmers, iv) water quality, v) urban food systems, and vi) integrated crop-livestock production systems. Dr. Githinji has published over 30 articles in research and extension resources focusing on sustainable agricultural practices and has taught several courses including soil science, vegetable crops production: soil morphology, soil physics, and introduction to GIS.

**Lisa Sanderson:** Lisa Sanderson is the Residential Horticulture Extension Agent and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator for Extension for University of Florida-Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension in Sumter County. She has been with UF/IFAS, North Carolina State University and Virginia Cooperative Extension for 13 years. Lisa enjoys her work sharing research-based information from University of Florida with the residents of Sumter County. She also appreciates working with dedicated Master Gardener Volunteers in Sumter County who devote their hours to projects such as the Demonstration Garden, the Youth Garden, the Master Gardener Speaker Series, Information Booths, Spring Garden Festival, Plantoberfest, and Ask the Master Gardener Plant Clinics offered in person and digitally.

**Lucy Bradley:** Dr. Lucy Bradley works for the North Carolina State Department of Horticultural Science as the Associate Department Head, the Department Extension Leader, and the Urban Horticulture Specialist directing consumer horticulture, community gardening, therapeutic horticulture, and the North Carolina Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program. Lucy began her gardening career as a Master Gardener Volunteer in Phoenix, Arizona. For her dissertation, Dr. Bradley helped create and evaluated a semester long, fully online Plant Biology Lab. Working in partnership with Longwood Gardens, she has been able to pursue her fascination with translating meaningful hands-on activities into accessible online opportunities. Dr. Bradley is an urban pioneer raising chickens, bees, and a son in an edible landscape full of native plants.

**Marylou Wall:** Marylou Wall is a retired professional registered nurse and administrator of special education programs, working in five states and seven school systems while joining her military husband crisscrossing the United States for 38 years with plenty of stories to share! Prior to retiring as the Director of Student Services from the City of Alexandria Public Schools, VA, she completed classes from the Green Spring Gardens Master Gardener program in 2005, taking vacation days on Tuesday and Thursdays for three months! Her volunteer activities center around the Garden Talks as lead, Mentoring and High Tech teams. Marylou serves as a Board member on the Friends of Green Springs (FROGS). She loves what is called social gardening, the way diverse communities are brought together around a local garden like Green Spring Gardens.

**Michelli Booker:** Michelli Booker is a Garden Coach and Landscape Designer, working with clients to better understand and enjoy their landscapes and gardens. Michelli Booker's degree is in Horticulture with an emphasis on Landscape Design. She's been certified as an 'Advanced level' Horticulturist through the Virginia Nursery and Landscapers Association (for which she teaches state certifications) and as a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional. Michelli serves as a Virginia Beach Master Gardener with their Tree Stewards and Speakers Bureau, speaking to the public on a variety of topics. She serves with the VA Horticultural Foundation and the Chesapeake Arboretum, working to educate the public about their surrounding environment.

**Mikaela Boley:** Senior Agent Assoc. (Talbot County) for Horticulture, Rachel Rhodes- Agent Assoc. for Horticulture (Queen Anne's Co), and Emily Zobel- Agriculture Agent (Dorchester County).

**Mike Maddox:** Mike has been the Outreach Program Manager for the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program since 2013. He holds a Biology B.S. from the University of Northern Iowa and a Horticulture MS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Pam Bennett:** Pam is an Associate Professor with The Ohio State University and serves as the Horticulture Educator for OSU Extension in Clark County as well as the Director for the state Master Gardener Volunteer Program director. She is also Interim Chadwick Arboretum Program Director. Pam is the co-author of the award-winning book Garden-pedia, An A-to- Z Guide to Gardening Terms, writes a weekly gardening column for eight counties receiving the Cox Publishing brands, authors the bi-monthly Ask the Expert Column for Ohio Gardening magazine, and is a frequent writer for popular gardening magazines as well as trade publications.

**Pat Reilly:** Pat Reilly has 25 years of experience as a Master Gardener volunteer, 10 years as a local MG coordinator, and 11 years' experience in the public sector educating homeowners on proper plant selection and care. Her current position with a large garden center is in the trees and shrubs department, assisting homeowners and landscapers on proper selection, care, and problem solving.

**Paulette W. Royt:** Dr. Paulette Royt earned a B.S. and M.S. in Biology from American University and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Maryland. After a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, Paulette joined the Biology Department of the George Mason University where she taught numerous courses within microbiology and pursued research in pathogenic microbiology. Upon retiring from George Mason University, Paulette became a Extension Master Gardener at Green Spring Gardens in Fairfax County where she serves as a member of the Advisory Board, as a docent and as a speaker on many topics of horticulture.

**Robin Wilson Gorham:** Dr. Robin (Bill) Gorham earned a BS (1969), MS (1973) and PhD (1974) in Biology from the University of California, Irvine. Bill joined the Biology Department of the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) where he taught numerous courses within biology, becoming a Professor Emeritus. Upon retiring from NVCC, Bill became an Extension Master Gardener at Green Spring Gardens in Fairfax County, VA.

**Susan DeBlieck:** Susan DeBlieck is an innovative program coordinator with a demonstrated history of community engagement, local food, event planning, social media, diversity & inclusion, education, and program evaluation. She is the North Central chair on the Extension Master Gardener National Committee and the State Coordinator for the Iowa Master Gardener program.

**Lisa Whittlesey:** Lisa serves as the program director for the JMGsm International Junior Master Gardener program which currently operates in all 50 states and has expanded internationally through collaborative partnerships with the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, JMG Korea, and expansions through US Military and National Guard projects. She is the author/co-author of nine award winning youth environmental curricula and her horticulture work and expertise has been featured in over 170 popular press/newspaper articles. Lisa was selected as the recipient of the 2011 National Excellence in Extension Award for the Southern Region through the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. In addition to her work with the JMG Program, Lisa provides leadership to horticulture programming, staff development/management and as a PI federal contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Windham Schools – TDCJ, and with Lee College prison programming efforts. Lisa is a lecturer for the freshman university course AGLS 125, guest lecturer for floral design and socio-horticulture classes at Texas A&M University and does educational videos for the public through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension social media outlets.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOW TO REGISTER

Registration opens April 5, 2021. The registration link will be sent to our email list and will be available online at: [www.internationalmastergardener.com/register](http://www.internationalmastergardener.com/register)

## ONLINE PLATFORM: EVENTMOBI

After registering, you will receive instructions on creating an EventMobi account. When you log in to our EventMobi page during the conference, you will be able to join our conference sessions at the designated times. Recordings of sessions will be made available on Eventmobi after the conference is over.

## VIRTUAL “TOURS”

We are creating interactive virtual “tour” maps that will be made available via our EventMobi site during the conference. You can view virtual tours at your convenience!

## SWAG BOXES

In advance of the conference, you will be mailed a welcome “swag box” that contains promotional materials, as well as any T-shirts you’ve ordered or materials for workshops you’ve registered for.

## CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS

During registration you will have the option to purchase a conference T-shirt that will be mailed to you along with your welcome “swag” box. If you are interested in a T-shirt, please add it to your registration; we do not have a separate event merchandise sales platform, so *T-shirts can only be purchased during the registration process.*

### Conference T-shirts



## CAN YOU REGISTER FOR ONLY CERTAIN SESSIONS OR WORKSHOPS?

No, you can not register for only certain sessions. To attend any sessions, including workshops, you must be registered for the full conference. Workshop fees are in addition to the cost of full conference registration.

## EVENT CAPACITY

In order to stay within the limits of our online platform and ensure we can offer support for registrants, registration is capped at 2,500 participants, and will therefore be first come, first served. Registration will not be reopened once full and conference session recordings will not be made available to those who are not among our 2,500 event maximum. We do expect the event to fill and suggest that if you plan to register, do not delay!

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Kathleen Reed at [reedka@vt.edu](mailto:reedka@vt.edu) or 540-231-2714/TDD\* during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.