

Central Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association
Central Shenandoah Valley
Garden Symposium



“GOING NATIVE”

Saturday, October 27, 2018

8:00 A.M. — 3:00 P.M.

8:00am – 8:30am Registration, Refreshments

8:30 Presentations Begin!

Doug Tallamy “Making Insects: A guide to restoring the little things that run the world”

Insect populations have declined 45% globally since 1974. The most alarming part of this statistic is that we don't seem to care, despite the fact that a world without insects is a world without humans! So how do we build beautiful landscapes that support the pollinators, herbivores, detritivores, predators and parasitoids that run the ecosystems we depend on? Tallamy will remind us of the many essential roles insects play and describe the simple changes we must make in our landscapes and our attitudes to keep insects on the ground, in the air and yes, on our plants.

9:45 Jim Hurley “Reducing the Impact of Invasive Species on our Natural Heritage”

What can be done about invasive plants, the Japanese honeysuckles, tree-of-heaven, Asian bittersweets, Japanese stiltgrasses, etc. etc. that are taking over our yards, roadsides, parks, fields, and forests? Plenty! In a motivational presentation Jim illustrates successful projects in urban setting in Northern Virginia, and landscape-scale work on private properties in rural Greene County. He then describes the work of Blue Ridge PRISM, organized four years ago to make an impact on this growing problem at a regional scale, as well as efforts through the Virginia Legislature and the Department of Agriculture to restrict the movement and sale of some of Virginia's worst plant invaders. This will not be an invasive plant ID and treatment clinic (the PRISM provides four-hour workshops on this), but Jim will also quickly review some very bad actors. Find out what YOU can do to help the PRISM reduce the impact of invasive species on our natural heritage.

10:50 Break

11:05 Doug Tallamy “Are ‘Alien’ Plants ‘Bad’?”

The expense of fighting introduced plant invasions and the unpopularity of restricting the sale of ornamental invasives have motivated several public figures to question the wisdom of continuing to battle invasive plants. After all, they argue, if an introduced plant helps a particular butterfly, bird, or bee, why not embrace it? Using data from several studies, Tallamy answers this and related questions, showing that we can determine the overall impact of introduced plants on our ecosystems only by comparing what is gained from their use with what is lost when they replace native plant communities. Introduced plants are not the ecological equivalents of the native plants they displace because they do not support the diverse and stable food webs that run our ecosystems. Exchanging plants that support all of our animal diversity for plants that support only a few species is ecologically indefensible.

12:10 Lunch

12:55 Ian Caton “Native Substitues for Common Ornamental & Invasive Plants”

It is well known, the dangers of exotic, invasive plants that are popularly grown in the gardens: They spread into the surrounding natural areas, damaging and degrading the quality of the habitat for pollinating insects, birds, and ultimately everything else wild (including us). Of increasing concern is the use of more benign and common ornamental plants that, while not invasive, never-the-less do not contribute to the health of pollinators, birds or other natural elements that we value. This lecture will present a selection of functionally appropriate, readily available, and easily grown native plants that can be used in place of the invasive and/or ornamental plants that are popularly used.