Green Spring Master Gardeners
4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

EcoSavvy Gardening

EIGHTH ANNUAL

EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium

Birds, Bats, Bees, and Bugs: The Importance of Pollinators

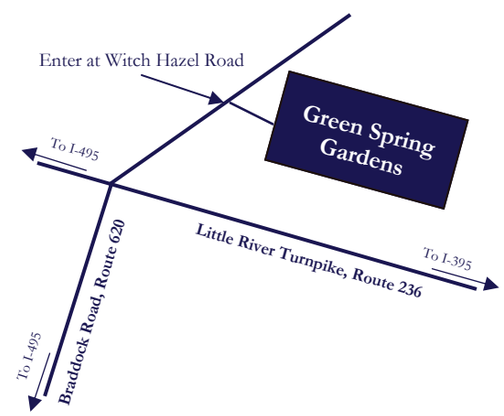
Saturday, February 25, 2012
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Learn how these four "Bs" bring bounty and beauty to our lives.

Green Spring Gardens

Green Spring Gardens is a Fairfax County park dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the area's horticultural, historical, and natural resources. It is a 31-acre public garden and National Historic Site where visitors are invited to explore demonstration gardens and stroll through the Virginia Native Plant Garden to the ponds. Classes for adults and children are offered year-round at the Horticultural Center and Historic House. Green Spring Gardens is a favorite destination for gardeners of all skill levels, elementary school student field trips, and scouting programs.

Green Spring Gardens administers the Fairfax County Farmers Markets, the Garden Plot rental program, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Green Spring Master Gardener Program.



For detailed directions or more program information, visit the Green Spring Gardens website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp or call 703-642-5173.

Animal pollinators such as birds, bats, bees, and bugs are needed by more than 80 percent of the world's flowering plants.

Without them, we would have very little to eat and a lot less beauty to enjoy in our gardens.

In this eighth annual EcoSavvy Gardening symposium, you will learn about the importance of pollinators and practical tips to make your garden more pollinator-friendly.

Green Spring Master Gardeners are sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and supported by Green Spring Gardens and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

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Our Speakers

Carol Hadlock is an avid birder and longtime member of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV). She co-founded the Audubon at Home in Northern Virginia program in the early 2000s and has taught classes on how to attract birds and other wildlife to suburban backyards. Carol and her husband Jay frequently lead bird walks for ASNV, the Reston Association, and The Bird Feeder store, where Carol has been giving out expert advice for 13 years.

Leslie Sturges has been a wildlife enthusiast all her life. She bred snakes, turtles, lizards, frogs, and insects before becoming a zookeeper with the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park. She left the zoo to join Montgomery County Parks as a park naturalist. In 2001, Leslie founded Bat World NOVA, a satellite rescue center of Bat World Sanctuary, to pursue a lifelong love of bats. She maintains a bat colony and visits schools and other venues to educate the public about bats and wildlife conservation.

Brenda Kiessling is an Eastern Apiculture Society (EAS) Certified Master Beekeeper. She serves on the boards of EAS and the Sustainable Honeybees Project, a nonprofit education organization in Loudoun County, VA. She teaches beekeeping through the Northern Virginia Beekeeping Consortium and since 2002, has led the 4-H Beekeeping Club in Fairfax County. Brenda also conducts pollinator surveys on cooperating farms for the Smithsonian's Virginia Working Landscapes Project.

Paula Shrewsbury is an entomologist at the University of Maryland (UMD). She has been involved in research and education on Integrated Pest Management for over 20 years, with a focus on creating sustainable landscapes, nurseries, and turf systems, and emphasizing biological control and conservation of natural enemies. She received her B.S. in Plant Science from the University of Rhode Island, M.S. in Entomology from the University of California, Riverside, and Ph.D. in Entomology from UMD.

Schedule

Registration and Coffee

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome

Adria Bordas, Extension Educator-Horticulture Virginia Cooperative Extension

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Ornithophily *n.* [Greek *ornith*, bird] the pollination of flowering plants by birds

Carol Hadlock

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the best-known bird pollinator in the eastern United States. We will explore its fascinating life history, plus introduce some lesser-known avian pollinators, both in the United States and around the world. We will take a look at some of the adaptations flowers and birds have made to accommodate each other's needs, and finally, give suggestions for attracting these flying jewels to your gardens.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Catastrophe in the Caves

Leslie Sturges

10:45 a.m. – Noon

Northern Virginia hosts as many as 10 species of bats, most of which are in drastic decline. Bats are valuable allies for home gardeners, agricultural growers, forest managers, and a benefit for public health. Conservative estimates put bats' contribution to agriculture alone at $3 billion per year in pest management services, yet bats are one of the most misunderstood and maligned wild mammals in North America. We will take a fact-filled, fascinating, and sobering look into bat natural history and conservation in the mid-Atlantic.

Lunch

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Pollination and Bees

Brenda Kiessling

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Life on earth would be very different without bees. Many of our fruits and vegetables would be so rare we would not be able to afford them because they rely on bees as pollinators. Learn what a bee is (and is not), about the many species of bees, and how bees have adapted to pollinate different plants. We will cover why pollination is important, what interferes with bees and their work, and how all of us can help the bees.

Break

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Attracting Insects to the Garden and the Benefits They Provide

Paula Shrewsbury

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Everyone enjoys the plants in their garden, but not everyone is aware that the plants they grow and the design of their landscape can make a difference to the community of beneficial insects they will attract. We will learn about the many benefits insects can provide, how plants and insects interact, and how you can conserve the beneficial ones to create healthier, more sustainable landscapes.

If ADA accommodations are needed, please call 703-324-8563; TTY 703-803-3354.

Registration

On-line:
Go to **Parktakes** online at: *www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes,* enter program code **#290 188 5501**, and follow registration instructions. Call 703-642-5173 to reserve a lunch or for assistance.

or

Mail this form to:
Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email

Telephone

Date of Birth

Parktakes Member Number (if known)

Box Lunch Choice ($12.00 each)

☐ Non-Vegetarian Lunch ☐ Vegetarian Lunch

Method of Payment

☐ MasterCard ☐ Check
☐ VISA ☐ Cash

Registration _____ ($50.00 county residents)
($65.00 out-of-county residents)
($32.50 county seniors)

Box Lunch _____ ($12.00 each)

Total: $_____

Credit Card # Exp. Date

Signature

Please Register by February 17, 2012