



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

2018 Arlington Alexandria Urban Agriculture Symposium

October 5, 2018 8:30am – 3:30 pm

8:30- 9:00 Registration, browsing of vendor's and sponsor tables, refreshments.

9:00 – 9:30 Symposium Opening and Presentation of Urban Agriculture Month in Arlington. **Speakers:** The Honorable John Vihstadt, Arlington County Board member, Audrey Morris, Friends of Urban Agriculture, Kirsten Ann Conrad, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Concurrent Sessions I: 9:40-10:30

***Integration of Agriculture in Higher Education: Teaching Horticulture to Millennials?**

This panel discussion will examine the roles that higher education programs can take on in increasing horticultural literacy as they address the educational needs of their communities.

Speakers: Anders Vidstrand, Horticulture Technology Department Chair, NoVA Community College, Susan Agolini, Biology Department, Marymount University, Donielle Nolan, Sustainable Systems Program, George Mason University

*** GreenWalls, Vertical Gardening, & BréthTechnology .**

Green walls, also known as living walls, bio walls, eco-walls or vertical gardens, are a system of plants grown on a vertical orientation. On the cutting edge of design, green walls create a dramatic statement for both interior and exterior spaces. Through phytoremediation, greenwalls can also provide air purification services for indoor spaces. **Speaker:** Ray Greenstreet II, Greenstreet Gardens

***Food Revival: Think Before You Toss!.** Food waste reduction, organic waste recycling, and low cost food production are issues of our urban communities that can be addressed in the garden as well as the kitchen. Here are some tips and tricks. **Speaker:** Aisha Salazar, Arlington Food Assistance Center

Concurrent Sessions II: 10:40-11:30

***Public and Private Community Development and Management Trends.** How are local government programs and private land managers meeting the needs of residents for recreational gardening and land use demand for market and home food production. This panel will explore how Arlington and Alexandria are working with public space, gardening communities and private property owners to meet that need. **Speakers:** Kim Haun, Arlington County Parks and Recreation, Suzanne Bouchard, Alexandria Parks and Recreation, Puwen Lee, Plot Against Hunger, Arlington Food Assistance Center

***From Farm to Green House to Cafeteria: Sustainability and Food Systems.** George Mason University in Fairfax Virginia has designed a program to demonstrate, teach, and directly benefit from the urban agriculture principles that their Sustainability program is centered around. Here's how it all works. **Speaker:** Donielle Nolan, George Mason University

***Edible Landscapes and Principles of Permaculture:** Got limited space, time, and resources for replanting every year? Here's how you can get the most out of the space that has traditionally been allocated for strictly ornamental landscaping. **Speaker:** Shawn Appling, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Thank you to our 2018 Program Sponsors: Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, The Fertilizer Institute, Bushel, Greenstreet Gardens, Love and Carrots, Rooftop Roots, and Edible Landscapes/WeRecycleTrees. Special thanks to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and EcoAction Arlington for their commitment to urban agriculture and their support for this event.



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11:30 – 12:00 LUNCH: Visit Tables, Get lunch and catch up with your fellow event attendees.

12:00 – 1:00 KEYNOTE Speaker: Urban Agriculture and Community Based Food System Development in Virginia: How is Virginia's government leading the expansion of efforts to promote food systems that include increased access to healthy, local foods and urban agriculture development. Dr. Jewell Bronaugh, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture

Concurrent Sessions III: 1:10 – 2:00

***VSU Urban Agriculture Program Update-** from the Harding Street Urban Agriculture Center to the development of an urban agriculture certification program, Virginia State University is a leader in Virginia urban agriculture education and business development. Speaker: Dr. Leonard Githinji, Virginia State University

***Skyscraper Farm: Innovation at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water System:** A presentation on the future of indoor urban agriculture, an examination of the needs and challenges, and a forward thinking look at what might be the cities of the future. Speaker: Nick Starling, Chairman, Skyscraper Farm LLC

***Integrated Aquaponics: Grow Fish!** This presentation will showcase home based systems for protein production that can be a great complement to a home garden or a stand-alone enterprise for indoor operations. Speaker: Dr. Brian Nerrie, Virginia State University

Concurrent Sessions IV: 2:00 – 3:15

***Meeting the Demand: Business Development Challenges of Urban Agriculture.** These business owners will showcase their work and share the challenges that they had to overcome to establish themselves and a vision for the future for urban agriculture entrepreneurs. Speakers: Matt McKinstry, BushelApp, Thomas Schneider, Rooftop Roots, Carly Mercer, Love and Carrots, Ryan Pierce, Fresh Impact

***Managing Soil Fertility on Urban Sites-** Knowing what nutrients are needed for a growing crop is essential on any cropping scale. Testing soil fertility and applying the concepts of 4R Nutrient Stewardship – considering the right source of nutrients, at the right rate at the righttime, and in the right place, can maximize the use of nutrients applied. Additionally, soil fertility elements like pH and organic matter will also influence how nutrients cycle in the soil, plant, and water system. This session will cover key soil fertility concepts and 4R nutrient stewardship practices to maximize the uptake of nutrients applied and plant health. Speaker: Dr. Sally Flis, Fertilizer Institute

***Encouraging Pollinators: Building Bee Friendly Landscapes.** Ensuring the success of pollinating insects is essential to the success of our gardening efforts. Here's a look at what can be done for both native and non-native pollinators of all kinds and how we can promote a thriving and supportive bee friendly garden. Speaker: Thomas Hayes, We Recycle Trees

3:15 – 3:30 Raffle Prizes and What's Next? Kirsten Conrad Virginia Cooperative Extension

Hope you have enjoyed today! Be sure to tour the St. Andrews Church Orchard and Garden.

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