Today’s Horticulture Symposium
February 7, 2020

50 Years of the Professional Horticulture Program

Started in 1970, the Professional Horticulture Program (previously called the Professional Gardener Program) is a combination of practical training alongside Longwood Gardens staff and collegiate-level coursework designed to cover key concepts and career development skills across core horticultural modules. In addition to being tuition-free, the two-year Professional Horticulture Program enables students to live rent-free on the Longwood grounds, receive hourly pay, and enjoy a number of other benefits including travel abroad and certification opportunities. The Professional Gardener Alumni Association (PGAA) was organized in 1976 to promote communication and to disseminate information among its members. This symposium is held annually thanks to the volunteer efforts of a committee of the PGAA. For more information about the Professional Horticulture Program, call the office of Domestic and International Studies at 610.388.5401 or visit longwoodgardens.org.

About Our Speakers

Ron Gagliardo

Ron Gagliardo grew up near the Florida Everglades, where he developed a permanent passion for nature. He studied botany at North Carolina State University and in 1983 joined the Atlanta Botanical Garden curating tropical collections. After six years working to conserve amphibians, Gagliardo returned to horticulture in 2014 as Amazon’s first horticulturist overseeing all aspects of horticulture and corporate landscapes at The Spheres.

Ash Gillis

Ash Gillis is a doctoral candidate in social psychology at The Pennsylvania State University. Using her varied expertise, Gillis informs, develops, and evaluates programs that encourage environmentally sustainable behavior. Gillis’ work has been published in *Global Environmental Change*, *Nature Climate Change*, and *Journal of Environmental Psychology*.

Adam Glas

Gardener Supervisor Adam Glas has worked at The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College since 2012. With a focus on sustainability and organic methods, he has been renovating and cultivating the Dean Bond Rose Garden. Glas graduated from the Professional Horticulture Program in 2004 and studied horticulture and landscape design at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Charlotte Harris & Hugo Bugg

Harris Bugg Studio is an award-winning landscape design practice based in the UK whose clients include The National Trust, The Royal Horticultural Society’s new Bridgewater garden, botanic gardens in Jordan and Sweden, and estates throughout England and Scotland. Winners of two gold medals at RHS Chelsea, Harris Bugg Studio has been called “pioneering design talents of their generation” and their work has been featured in *Country Living* and *Architectural Digest*.

Tim Jennings

Senior Horticulturist Tim Jennings graduated from the Professional Horticulture Program in 1988 and oversees Longwood’s outdoor Waterlily Display, and the Fern Passage and Rose House in the Conservatory. Jennings teaches several popular water gardening courses and plant identification classes at Longwood, and can answer almost any question about waterlilies.

William Bryant Logan

William Bryant Logan is a noted author and the author of several books including *The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth: Oak, The Frame of Civilization; Air: The Restless Shaper of the World*, and *Spout Lenads: Tending the Endless Gifts of Trees*. He is the founder and president of Urban Arborists in New York City and serves on the faculty of the New York Botanical Garden.

Debbie Mahon

In 1990, Debbie Mahon was one of the youngest graduates of the Professional Horticulture Program. Soon after, she became a horticulture instructor for the New Jersey Department of Corrections, where she has been committed to helping young people develop professionally. For the past 16 years, Mahon has been the environmental advisor for her hometown in Lower Bucks County, PA and serves as its mayor.

Amani Olugbala

Amani Olugbala, community educator at Soul Fire Farm, is a storyteller and food justice advocate with more than 15 years of experience in youth education and community outreach. Olugbala’s early work with Natural Leaders, Brother Yusuf, Youth Ed Venture Network, and YOF underscored the necessity of reintroduction to land as a source of healing and power for those who have been historically and systematically disconnected.

Event Sponsors

Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer Foundation, Mt. Cuba Center, and the Professional Gardener Alumni Association

The Symposium Selection Committee


Special thanks to Susan Caldwell, Adam Dooling, David Mattern, Mark Mosinski, Victor Plott, Shari Ruszczyk, Brian Trader, Jessica Whitehead, and Deb Wilks

Today’s Horticulture At Longwood Gardens February 7, 2020

50 Years of the Professional Horticulture Program
Schedule

8 am Registration (Visitor Center)
Plant Sale (Patio of Oranges)

8:50 am Welcome (Ballroom)
Emily Reuther, Event Coordinator

9 am The Thousand Year Wood: Past, Present, and Future of People and Oaks
William Bryant Logan
Oaks and people have been intimately connected since at least the Mesolithic Period. Learn about the long history of that relationship including the many things oaks have taught us, in locations from Japan to Europe to California. William Bryant Logan discusses the present possibilities for planting and maintaining oaks in the landscape with consideration given to the preferences of different species and where they are best suited.

9:45 am Transforming Residential Landscapes
Ash Gillis
With biodiversity in severe decline, one way to affect change is to radically increase native plants in residential landscapes. But what would motivate homeowners to make this shift when faced with opposing societal pressure? This presentation offers insights from social psychology and successful real-world examples of communities growing native plants together.

10:30 am Break

11 am Year Five on Day One: Cultivating the Amazon Spheres
Ron Gagliardi
In 2018, Amazon HQ Seattle opened The Spheres, a new take on the urban office environment that embraces biophilic design. The Spheres is a result of innovative thinking about the character of the workplace and an extended conversation about what it often lacks: a direct link to nature that inspires curiosity and conservation.

11:45 am Lunch (Terrace Restaurant)

1 pm Professional Horticulture Alumni Spotlight Part One: Water Gardening Lessons Learned
Tim Jennings
Adding a water feature to your garden can enhance your entire landscape. Explore the culture, care, and maintenance of aquatic plants with the horticulturist responsible for Longwood’s outdoor Waterfowl Display, reinforcing water gardening principles and introducing a few favorite plants.

Professional Horticulture Alumni Spotlight Part Two: Horticultural Therapy at the NJDOC Debbie Mahon
The New Jersey Department of Corrections operates the Jones Farm Horticulture Program in Mercer County. Instructor Debbie Mahon will present the day-to-day, yearly, and professional achievements of the students she teaches, while also sharing some positive points in hiring a returning citizen.

Professional Horticulture Alumni Spotlight Part Three: Why Not Roses?
Adam Glas
Fall back in love with America’s national flower. Many gardeners are intimidated by roses because of their reputation for being difficult to grow. Learn how new breeding efforts, sustainable growing methods, and trials for pest and disease resistance have positioned roses for a renaissance and find out which ones are best for your garden.

2 pm Dessert/Coffee Break

2:15 pm Farming While Black: Uprooting Racism, Seeding Sovereignty
Anami Okubala
Some of our most cherished sustainable farming practices have roots in African wisdom, yet discrimination against African-American farmers has led to their decline to fewer than 2% of all growers today. Meanwhile, Black communities suffer disproportionately from lack of access to fresh food and healthy ecosystems. Learn about Soul Fire Farm’s commitment to ending racism and seeding food sovereignty based on justice, dignity, and abundance for all.

3 pm Break

3:30 pm Collaborative Approaches to Design and Planting at Harris-Bugg Studio
Charlotte Harris & Hugo Bugg
Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg had successful separate design practices before formally merging in 2017 to form Harris-Bugg Studio. Harris and Bugg share case studies of a range of their public and residential projects, as well as insight into what it takes to award-winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. They also explore some of the challenges of collaborating and how they (or haven’t) resolved them.

4:15 pm Closing Remarks

Registration

Preregistration is required via paper registration or online.
Sorry, no telephone registrations. No walk-ins will be accepted.
The Symposium fee includes admission to Longwood Gardens, all lectures, CEUs, lunch, refreshments, and plant sale access.
To register online, visit longwoodgardens.org/todayshorticulture.
To register by mail, please use the attached form.

Onsite Symposium Pricing
$119 Onsite Symposium Early Bird (if registered by January 4)
$149 Onsite Symposium (if registered after January 4)
$75 Onsite Symposium PLEGA Members (discounted rate applies to alumni who have paid 2019 dues)

Attend Online
You may now participate in Today’s Horticulture anytime, anywhere, for free. You can access the symposium webcast, live or on demand, using your preferred platform, including mobile device. For details or to register, visit longwoodgardens.org/todayshorticulture.

Cancellation Policy
Early registrations are recommended. Seating is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come basis. Registration fees will be refunded less a $30 processing fee if requests are made by January 3, 2020. The event will be held regardless of weather conditions. No refunds will be given if you are unable to attend due to weather.

Accessibility
Longwood Gardens and the Today’s Horticulture Selection Committee will make every effort to assist individuals with accommodation requests. Please contact us at least one week prior to the symposium to discuss any questions or concerns.

Continuing Education Units
Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are offered by the following organizations for attendance at the symposium. Unless otherwise noted, CEUs are not available to webcast attendees:

- PLNA 4.5 units with self-reporting; available to webcast attendees
- ASHS 6 units with self-reporting; available to webcast attendees
- AQLCP 4 units with self-reporting; available to webcast attendees
- DNLA 1 unit with verification of attendance
- ISA 2.5 units with verification of attendance
- ALPD 5 units with self-reporting; pending approval of webcast attendees
- LA-CES 6 units with verification of attendance

For details and payment information, please visit the symposium website: longwoodgardens.org/todayshorticulture.

Questions regarding this event’s content may be directed to: Emily Reuther, Symposium Event Coordinator, todayshorticulture@gmail.com

Register Online
To register using a paper registration, please include a check payable to Longwood Gardens. To use a credit card, please register online.

Mail to: Continuing Education Longwood Gardens PO Box 501 Kennett Square, PA 19348-5501

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Registration Form

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Name (for additional registrants, please use a copy of this form)

Company/Institution
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City, State, Zip
Telephone number
Email

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Year of Graduation

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