

Root for the Natives

*By Dorothy Tompkins, GCV Horticulture Committee
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Would you like some new ideas for plantings in your garden that will enhance its biodiversity and help slow the explosion of invasive plant infestation that is overrunning our natives and our countryside? Did you know that invasive plants can bring with them invasive animal species that can affect human health, recreation activities and local economies? Attend this year's September workshop, "Invasives," presented by the combined Horticulture and Conservation committees and immerse yourself in how to go native and avoid invasive plants.

This year's workshop will be open to all Garden Club of Virginia members and will be held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond on September 23rd. We are excited to bring this workshop and its knowledgeable speakers to both members, and nonmembers, of GCV.

Kevin Heffernan, Virginia Natural Heritage Stewardship Biologist, will share his vast knowledge on invasive species in Virginia. Heffernan has worked in the Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage since the early 1990s. He led the development of the state invasive species management plan and wrote fact sheets on invasive plants of Virginia. A hands-on segment of the program will help us identify plants and insects that we can incorporate into our landscapes to keep ecosystems functioning. We will hear about which native species we can use in our own gardens to help save migrant birds and butterflies.

Cole Burrell is a designer and award winning author, photographer, naturalist and educator. He is principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration which specializes in blending nature and culture through artistic design. He has devoted a lifetime to studying native plants in the wild and in gardens. He lectures internationally on topics of design, plants and ecology. Mr. Burrell's articles and photographs appear regularly in *Landscape Architecture Magazine, Horticulture, Fine Gardening and American Gardener*.

Let's go native! Join us in Richmond, September 23rd, for this comprehensive workshop on invasives. The cost is \$25; visit www.gcvirginia.org to register. 🌱