

## Horticulture Field Day 2016

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Relive part of your college experience during Horticulture Field Day 2016. Enjoy a day of interesting and engaging lectures without the final exam.

Horticulture Field Day 2016 will be held on May 26 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Speakers include Robert Saunders, Bonnie Satterthwaite, Paul Westervelt and Elissa Steeves.

Robert Saunders is the Sales Manager of Saunders Brothers, a 100-year-old family-owned wholesale nursery that has been growing boxwood for 60 years. His presentation will focus on the proper care of boxwood, boxwood blight and alternatives to English boxwood. Bonnie Satterthwaite is the Southeast Territory Sales Manager for Espoma. She has 30 years of experience in the lawn and garden industry and will speak about organic gardening. Paul Westervelt, the Annual & Perennial Production Manager for Saunders Brothers, was so popular at HFD 2014 at Pharsalia that the GCV Horticulture Committee is thrilled to welcome him back to his alma mater. Paul's presentation is entitled "Perennials for Multiple Seasons." Elissa Steeves is a local gardening legend whose gardens have been featured in *Southern Living*, *Horticulture*, and the October 2015 issue of *Virginia Gardener*. Elissa is an adventurous gardener with a love of plants and color. Her presentation is entitled "Aging Gracefully as the Garden Matures." A tour of Elissa's fabulous gardens will be offered the afternoon preceding HFD.

Lunch will be served in the Hahn Horticulture Garden. Its six acres include shade gardens, a meadow garden, perennial borders, water features and a conifer display. During lunch there will be a demonstration of sand-casted leaf making. Attendees may also visit Stadium Woods, an 11-acre stand of rare, urban, old-growth forest located within walking distance of the Hahn Garden.

Field Day will also include vendors specializing in conifers, succulents, and sand-casted leaf sculptures and orbs. Nan Mahone Wellborn, a painter of plein air landscapes and a Roanoke Valley Garden Club member, will display her artwork.

The Inn at Virginia Tech will serve as the location for early check-in. There will be a block of rooms reserved for attendees. While in Blacksburg, visit the "We Remember Memorial," dedicated to those slain on April 16, 2007. Tour Historic Smithfield Plantation, take a hike at nearby Pandapas Pond or play a round of golf at Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech. Horticulture Field Day 2016 is not to be missed. See the GCV website for details and registration. 🌿