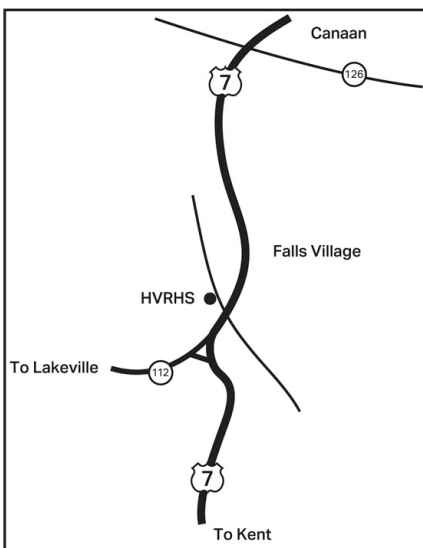


BIOGRAPHIES, CONT'D.

Villanova, PA, which opened to the public in 2018. He developed his love of the natural world exploring the Susquehanna River hills in southeastern PA. He cultivated his horticultural perspective over two decades of gardening in the Deep South, including as director of Moore Farms Botanical Garden, where he led the transition from a private pleasure garden to a public botanical garden. Drawing on influences from both regions, he enjoys creating a garden experience at Stoneleigh that inspires others to garden for beauty, biodiversity, and the health of our planet.

DIRECTIONS

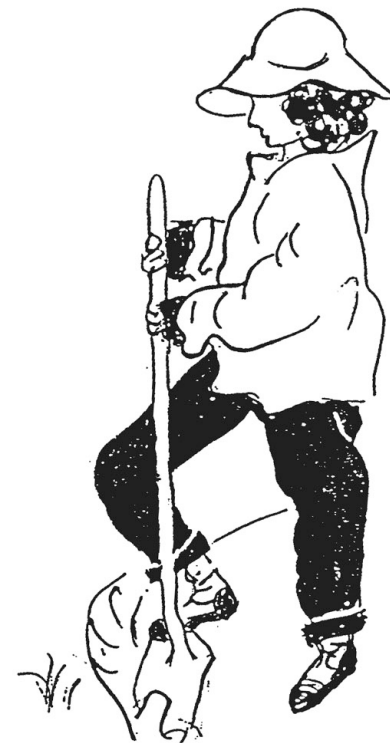


Housatonic Valley Regional High School is at 246 Warren Turnpike in Falls Village, CT 06031. The driveway is located at the traffic light on Route 7 next to the bridge, just north of the intersection with Route 112. The Symposium will be held in the auditorium. Please enter at the main entrance and follow signs for the Symposium.

Snow Day — Sunday, March 3, 2024.
To learn if the Symposium is postponed due to inclement weather, call Ken Monteiro at 347-525-8871 or Paul Arcario at 917-373-6268.

SCIENCE DAY

Mad Gardeners sponsors a daylong program of speakers for students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation with your registration to help pay for this important educational event. Contact Dana Slaughter at dana99usa@gmail.com if you are interested in attending this year's Science Day on April 12.



Cultivating Beauty and Habitat

**Saturday
March 2, 2024**

Housatonic Valley Regional HS
Falls Village, Connecticut

Sponsored by
MAD GARDENERS
and
Agricultural Education Dept. HVRHS

Recertification Credits Possible:
Please visit www.madgardeners.org
for more information.

For Additional Information Contact:

Ken Monteiro
kennethmonteiro@gmail.com

Paul Arcario
pjadcw53@gmail.com

Cultivating Beauty and Habitat

Saturday, March 2, 2024

- 8:30-9:15 a.m. **REGISTRATION, vendors, exhibits**
- 9:15-9:30 a.m. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
Jonathan Chesler, Mad Gardeners President
- 9:30-11:00 a.m. **REBECCA MCMACKIN: *Adventures in Ecological Horticulture***
Who doesn't love butterflies? Our gardens can be stunningly beautiful while also providing habitat for the wildlife that enriches our lives. For ecological horticulturist Rebecca McMackin, cultivating habitat is central to landscape management. In her 10 years as Director of Horticulture at Brooklyn Bridge Park, she oversaw 85 acres of diverse, organic landscapes, all managed to support birds, butterflies, and soil microorganisms. Rebecca will discuss how to use ecological insight and experimentation to develop new management strategies—and why careful observation and documentation of wildlife in your gardens is crucial to their success.
- 11:00-11:15 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK, vendors, exhibits**
- 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **BARBARA PAUL ROBINSON: Gardening, A Love Story: Creating Brush Hill**
This is the garden love story of Charlie and Barbara Robinson and of Brush Hill, the garden they created together over five decades. It is the story of how two people of very different temperaments and skills worked to create a place of great beauty. Brush Hill covers over 10 acres of gardens, with formal flower borders, a rose garden, vegetable garden, woodland walks, all created and tended by Barbara, and a number of garden features all built by Charlie, including a pond, bridges, arches and his Waterworks with 14 pools, rills and waterfalls. Their ongoing love story offers inspiration, encouragement, honest and funny tales of garden mistakes and the seriously hard work that a garden entails, along with the garden's many joys.
- 12:15-1:30 p.m. **LUNCH** (included with registration), **vendors, exhibits**
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **ETHAN KAUFFMAN: Wild and Wonderful: Stoneleigh's Traditional Landscapes Reimagined with Native Plants**
With a 150-year history as a private estate, Stoneleigh: a natural garden became one of the newest public gardens in the Philadelphia region in 2018. Informed by the growing understanding of the connectedness of all living things, a vision arose during the transition: to reimagine a historical landscape as an ecologically vibrant wonderland of native plants. Relying on both tried-and-true gardening techniques and intrepid experimentation, the emerging garden is an exuberant exploration of cultivating native plants in the modern landscape. Stoneleigh Director Ethan Kauffman will reveal the unexpected plants, expressive design philosophy, and unconventional practices that are driving Stoneleigh's exciting transformation.
- 3:00-3:10 p.m. **CLOSING**

MODERATOR—**Jonathan Chesler**

BIOGRAPHIES

Rebecca McMackin is an ecologically obsessed horticulturist and garden designer. She spent a decade as Director of Horticulture of Brooklyn Bridge Park, where she managed 85 acres of diverse parkland organically. Her research into cultivating urban biodiversity and ethical management strategies has influenced thousands of people and entire urban parks systems to adopt similar approaches. Rebecca has recently completed a Loeb Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and designed a native wildflower garden for the entrance of the Brooklyn Museum. She has been published by and featured in the *New York Times*, the Landscape Institute, and on NPR and PBS. She holds MScs from Columbia University and University of Victoria in landscape design and biology.

Barbara Paul Robinson is the author of three books: *Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener* (Godine 2012); *Heroes of Horticulture: Americans Who Transformed the Landscape* (Godine 2018); and her new book, *Gardening, A Love Story: Creating Brush Hill*. During a sabbatical from the leading international law firm, Debevoise & Plimpton where she was the first woman partner, she worked as a gardener for Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House, then for Penelope Hobhouse at Tintinhull. A frequent speaker around the country, in Canada and Europe, Barbara is an Honorary Director of Wave Hill and Director Emeritus of the Garden Conservancy. A hands-in-the-dirt gardener herself, she and her husband have created their own gardens at Brush Hill in northwestern Connecticut, which is included in the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens.

Ethan Kauffman currently serves as Natural Lands' first director of Stoneleigh: a natural garden, a 42-acre former estate located in

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REGISTRATION FORM

use this mail-in form or register online at www.madgardeners.org

*Pre-registration by **Tuesday, February 27** includes lunch. Late and at-door registration is possible if space is available but may not include lunch. Online sales end on Friday, March 2 at 4PM.*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Member(s) registering X \$75 _____

Non-member(s) registering X \$85 _____

Optional Donation(s) for Science Day _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Make Checks Payable to: MAD GARDENERS

Mail To: Angela Dimmitt

Mad Gardeners

PO Box 146, Sherman, CT 06784-0146

To register after February 27, please call
Ken Monteiro at 347-525-8871, or Paul Arcario
at 917-373-6268.

***Please DO NOT send membership dues
to the Symposium Registrar***