

56th Annual Garden Club of Virginia Conservation Forum
"Trees: Virginia's Remarkable, Renewable Resource"
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Ted Constant Convocation Center, 4320 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23529

Forum 2014 Speakers

Dr. Lytton John Musselman

Dr. Musselman holds the Mary Payne Hogan Professorship of Botany at Old Dominion University, manages the nearby Blackwater Ecologic Preserve, has been granted a Fulbright award at the University of Brunei to study ethnobotany of the rainforest, and has served as resident botanist on A Prairie Home Companion's Boston-Montreal cruise. His interest in plants and growing things is global and ranges from wetland studies to edible plants, from fungi to trees, from the Chesapeake to the Adirondacks, from Qatar to Borneo. His presentation to us will be *The Tree that Built Tidewater--The Neglected Role of Longleaf Pine in Virginia History*.

Dr. Richard Olsen

Serves as lead scientist for the urban tree breeding and germplasm research programs at the US National Arboretum and the Arboretum's acting director. He aims to enhance genetic diversity in our urban forests in order to produce cultivars of important landscape trees that are bred for tolerance to stressful conditions and adaption to restricted planting spaces. His research has included catalpa, black gum, hemlock, and fringe tree, among many others, and his peer-reviewed publications are too numerous to mention. He will speak to us about our urban forests.

Bettina Ring

2014 marks the celebration of the Virginia Department of Forestry's centennial. Bettina Ring is the first woman to head the Department, having been recently appointed by Governor McAuliffe. She brings to the position a varied experience: along with past experience within the Department, she has held leadership positions in nonprofit organizations focusing on natural resource management and conservation: the American Forest Foundation, Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, The Wilderness Land Trust, the Bay Area Open Space Council. She will explain the Virginia Department of Forestry's role in managing and protecting our forest resources.

Nancy Ross Hugo

Being an honorary member of the Garden Club of Virginia, Nancy is well known to us for her delight in growing things and her joy in writing about them. Most of us are familiar with Nancy for her lovely book, *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*. Her second remarkable tree book, *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secret Lives of Everyday Trees*, is another must-read, and the inspiration for her presentation. She describes how to view trees in ways that reveal secrets about their evolution and engineering. She teaches us that intimate tree details are every bit as worth of viewing as those of roses or peonies. By becoming more personally familiar with these tree details, observers will better appreciate both the ecological and landscape value of trees.