



2016 Cleveland Pollinator Symposium

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016 at The University Farm

37125 Fairmount Boulevard, Hunting Valley, OH 44022

8:00 am ~ 5:00 pm

Speaker Biographies

Michele Colopy is the Program Director for Pollinator Stewardship Council. The council works to affect regulatory processes of pesticide risk assessment, label and enforcement. Michele provides advocacy, guidance and tools to document the detrimental effects of pesticides on pollinators. She works closely with state beekeeper associations, the American Honey Producers Association, the American Beekeeping Federation, and the National Honey Bee Advisory Board to coordinate efforts across the bee industry.

Michele has more than seventeen years of experience in a variety of nonprofit organizations. She holds a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from the University of Akron. Her experience includes organizations in the performing arts, housing and homelessness, foreclosure prevention, community development, and health and wellness. Her father raised bees for his small apple orchard in Ohio, and she helped with the honey harvest. She manages her own bees in the city.

Jennifer Davit is the Project Manager at Ohio Prairie Nursery. She has worked in horticulture and public gardens for over 15 years. She served as Director of

the Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park in Chicago, IL for almost 5 years before moving to Cleveland, OH. The Lurie Garden is one of the most successful organically maintained public gardens designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd. with the perennial planting designed by the renowned Dutch plantsman, Piet Oudolf. The Lurie Garden attracts over 2 million visitors annually. She initiated a number of projects including the Lurie Garden Bee Program with the installation of two beehives. She provided annual educational programs on gardening for pollinators.

Prior to the Lurie Garden, Jennifer worked at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, FL where she managed a 16,000 square foot conservatory. She also served as a horticulture consultant for Miami-based landscape architect, Raymond Jungles, Inc. Davit has a Masters in public garden management from Cornell University and a BS in biology from Wright State University in Dayton, OH.

Stephen Repasky is president of Burgh Bees, Pittsburgh's urban beekeeping organization and the founder of the first community apiary in the country. He is also

the 1st Vice-president of the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association and sits on the board of directors for the American Beekeeping Federation. Stephen is committed to educational outreach providing beekeeping classes for the beginning beekeeper.

He graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Stephen published his first book, *Swarm Essentials* and presents lectures on a variety of beekeeping topics across the United States

Claudia West is a landscape architect, lecturer and consultant based in White Hall, Maryland. In her current role as ecological sales manager at North Creek Nurseries, she bridges the gap between project designers, plant growers, installation and management professionals, and ecology. Claudia works closely with design and restoration professionals, offering consultation services from initial project planning stages and site-appropriate planting design to adaptive management strategies after project completion. In collaboration with the team at North Creek Nurseries, Claudia developed the first plant

community based design tool and established numerous test and evaluation plantings to further evolve the concept of mixed planting design in the United States.

Claudia learned the principles of plant propagation and stable planting design while growing up in her family's landscape design, plant nursery and florist business. She served as a design consultant for Wolfgang Oehme/Carol Oppenheimer and was employed at Bluemount Nurseries, Sylva Native Nursery, and Envirens, Inc. She is co-author of Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Resilient Plant Communities.

Natalie Gertz-Young is the Education/Information Coordinator for the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and a Naturalist at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Mentor Marsh Carol H. Sweet Nature Center. Her areas of interest include backyard conservation, native plant landscaping and building knowledge and appreciation for the outdoors in all ages. Natalie has a B.A. in Psychology from the College of Wooster and an M.S. in Environmental Science with an Environmental Education Specialty from Antioch University New England. She started her

career at The Holden Arboretum doing school and public programs as well as managing and expanding the children's nature play area before starting her current position at Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Lauren Wheeler is the Director of Sustainable Landscapes at George Washington University and is principal of Natural Resources Design, Inc. She has a strong commitment to educating homeowners, students, environmental organizations and landscape professionals on the principles of ecological landscape design. Ms. Wheeler advocates the landscape professionals should be able to speak the language of the sustainable rating systems and provides an overview including LEEDv4, Living Building Challenge v2 and SITESv2. Ms. Wheeler has a Master of Art, Landscape Design degree from the Conway School of Design.

Catherine Zimmerman is an award-winning director of photography and celebrates her 40th year as a documentary filmmaker, working primarily on education and environmental issues. Her environmental videos include global warming documentaries for CNN Presents and New York Times Television;

Save Rainforests/Save Lives; Fresh farm Markets; Wildlife Without Borders; Connecting People and Nature in the Americas; and America's Sustainable Garden: United States Botanic Garden.

Catherine is also a certified horticulturist and landscape designer based in Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. She is accredited in organic land care through the Northeast Organic Farmers Association and has taught organic landscaping for the USDA Graduate School Horticulture program.

In writing the book and filming the video, Urban and Suburban Meadows, Catherine has created a stunning and enticing introduction to meadowscaping that will encourage her readers to do away with pesticides, reduce lawn and return their land to a beautiful, natural habitat for native plants and wildlife. Currently she is collaborating with Dr. Doug Tallamy on her documentary, "*Hometown Habitat*." The film explores how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local eco-systems. Included are the inspiring stories of habitat heroes, across the country, who are working to bring back nature their hometowns.