

## PRESS RELEASE

### Upcoming Garden Symposium

Have you always admired a lovely garden, but not always had the luck when trying to grow one on your own? Or perhaps you are an experienced gardener, who is perpetually looking for opportunities to expand your current knowledge? Either way, you will be excited to learn of an upcoming program, which will be just the thing for you!

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners announces a Fall Garden Symposium to be held on Saturday, October 21, at the Cheriton Fire Station on Sunnyside Road. The daylong event begins at 8:00 am and includes five lectures, lunch and a lively raffle of items by local artisans.

Lecture topics include “Ornamental Grasses” and “Designing the Garden” by Mary-Stickley Godinez, who will introduce you to the wonderful varieties of grasses and their uses in landscaping. Learn basic principles of garden design to enhance curb appeal, increase value and improve the use of your outdoor home space. Mary, the former Manager of Gardens and Grounds for the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, has recently started Countryside Nurseries, a wholesale nursery and grafting company. She also owns and operates Countryside Garden Consultations, providing ideas and information to assist homeowners in their gardening endeavors. In addition, she writes on gardening topics for various publications, gives lectures and teaches seminars throughout the state.

Hampton Roads’ own Les Parks, Curator of Herbaceous Plants at the Norfolk Botanical Garden and author of the Coastal Region Report in the *Virginia Gardener* magazine, will enlighten you on the “Best Perennials for Eastern Virginia Gardens.” This presentation will be a January through December, season by season walk through the garden to discover which perennials (both familiar and unusual) are ideally adapted to our local climate and which ones offer the greatest rewards.

Learn more about “Outrageous Foliage Plants” and “The Right Size Flower Garden” from Kerry Ann Mendez, an award-winning garden designer, author and lecturer, who focuses on time-saving gardening techniques, workhorse plants and sustainable practices. You will discover how foliage can add incredible color to your garden without relying on flowers for a dramatic effect. And you can leverage your new knowledge of low maintenance foliage along with other right-sizing tips for easy-to-follow strategies to create stunning year-round gardens that are as close to autopilot as you can get. Kerry Ann, who was awarded the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Gold Medal in 2014, has appeared on HGTV and has been featured in numerous magazines including *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Gate* and *Better Homes & Gardens*.

Shore Good Bakery will provide a sandwich buffet at lunchtime, and drinks and snacks will be provided during breaks, when you will have an opportunity to visit the raffle table and to browse the books available for purchase.

Tickets go on sale April 5, for \$65 and increase to \$80 after September 15. Additionally, for those who want to extend their weekend on Virginia's beautiful Eastern Shore, blocks of discounted rooms are reserved at the Sunset Beach Resort near Cape Charles and at Hampton Inn in Exmore.

To read more about the upcoming event, go to [easternshoremastergardeners.com](http://easternshoremastergardeners.com). Email [esmgva@gmail.com](mailto:esmgva@gmail.com) to request a registration form or call (757) 678-7946, ext. 20, for more information.