

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native Plant Symposium a Success

Lexington, VA – March 16, 2016. Thanks to all of you who attended the symposium **GROW 2016: A Celebration of Native Plants** on Saturday, March 5th. Boxerwood is the recipient of the symposium's proceeds.

Over 160 people enjoyed informative speakers, good food, and door prizes. The day began with **Rick Darke**, a nationally known ecologist, author, and landscape designer who delighted the audience with his beautiful photographs and his vision of layered landscape design, emulating the way plants grow in nature. It turns out he has been visiting a good friend in Warm Springs for the past forty years and was very familiar with Goshen Pass.

Dr. Dennis Whigham was our next speaker, Head Botanist for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center outside of Annapolis. His talk on our native orchids made us realize how complicated – and endangered – the life cycles of these orchids are.

Rounding up the day was **James Gagliardi**, Head Horticulturist at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, speaking on bird and butterfly habitats. Gagliardi charmed the audience with the stories about gardening in our nation's capitol.

If you attended the symposium, please remember to **fill out the online survey** that came to you via e-mail; it helps us determine not only where improvements need to be made, but also the topic for the next symposium: Perennials, anyone?

Stay tuned for GROW 2018.

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