

# 2017 | NC Green Industry Council - 7th Annual Water Symposium

*The Future of Water in a Green World*



Honorary Chairs: Jill and John Hoffman

## Water in the Performance Landscape

June 22, 2017

McKimmon Center, Raleigh, NC

### Getting Water Right **Opening Keynote Address**

*Warren Gorowitz, Ewing Irrigation and Irrigation Association, Phoenix, AZ*

Water is the lifeblood of any managed green space. It drives decisions from project design and planning to plant selection and irrigation management. We work in the "original green industry" and navigating today's complex environment requires collaboration and communication with all external stakeholders. Warren is the President-Elect of the Irrigation Association. He has been engaged in the landscape industry nationwide focused around water and sustainability for over two decades. Ewing Irrigation, a third generation, family owned supplier has been focused on providing solutions to landscape, golf, and agricultural markets, coast to coast for over 95 years. Warren will share his perspective on where the industry has been and how it can lead the green movement with sustainability.

### The City as Ecology

*Kevin Nunnery, Biohabitats, Raleigh, NC and Baltimore, MD*

Urban ecology is a new and developing field of inquiry, investigating the interaction of nature with human development. Creating and/or effectively managing open areas in developed and urbanized areas can enhance the ecology of those areas within the urban framework, benefiting both nature and humans. Those benefits are most fully realized when there's communication and coordination between planners, ecologists, engineers and contractors. With forethought, urban landscapes can provide multiple ecosystem services such as stormwater control, water quality improvement, ambient temperature moderation, air quality improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement for pollinators and birds, and more. Also, a clear link between urban green space and human wellness benefits is well-established. Kevin will walk the audience through projects that utilize urban ecology principles to benefit local communities through focusing on ecological stewardship.

### Landscape Performance: Quantifying Benefits

*Barbara Deutsch, Landscape Architecture Foundation, Washington, DC*

Landscapes pay! Through quantifying the benefits and performance of specific projects, the Landscape Architecture Foundation is elevating the designed and planned landscape. The connections between landscape and the health of ecosystems, people and economies are increasingly clear. As the body of knowledge related to landscape performance grows, it informs public policy, reduces investor risk and improves return on investment. Barbara will showcase the LAF's evidence base for functional landscapes: The Landscape Performance Series, resources to help designers, agencies and advocates evaluate performance, show value and make the case for sustainable landscapes.

### Update from the Dean, CALS 5 years later.....My How We Have Changed

*Dr. Rich Linton, Dean, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, NC State University, Raleigh, NC*

Dean Linton will provide a perspective about how the college has grown over the past 5 years and will talk about some of the new agricultural initiatives that are helping the state of NC. Dean Linton is shaping the College of Ag & Life Sciences around partnerships to address the issues we face today. NCSU CALS is bringing students, faculty/staff and industry together to grow North Carolina's agricultural economy and benefit the public.

### Blades of Green/Shades of Ecology

*Dr. Grady Miller, NC State University, Raleigh, NC*

Can turf ever be part of the green economy? Is turf a wise investment of limited water resources? It depends. When installed and managed well, turf adds valuable ecological functionality to a site. The good news is that recreation and aesthetics are just the beginning. Infiltration, soil microbes and biodiversity and even pollinator habitat can be part of sustainable turf management. Grady will talk about ways to manage turf and lawn to reduce inputs, add value to clients and create spaces that not only look nice, but add landscape and site level functionality.

### Green Infrastructure on the Ground: Curating the Functional Landscape

*Dan Gottlieb and Rachel Woods, NC Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC and John Hutton, Wildlands Engineering, Raleigh, NC*

The 164-acre campus at the North Carolina Museum of Art is a unique cultural landscape, positioned to be the green centerpiece of the Blue Ridge Road Corridor as it is developed. Newly expanded, the park is home to a formerly degraded prison landscape under restoration including native trees, miles of walking paths and innovative stormwater management. As a museum, the landscape introduces an expanded audience to informal engagement with art in the landscape. Dan and Rachel will walk the audience through the campus' redevelopment and ecological functionality, spotlighting current and future areas designed for habitat, water management and public engagement with nature. John will discuss stream restoration on the property.

### Montgomery County's RainScapes Program Through an Industry Lens

*Ann English, RainScapes Program Manager, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Watershed Management Division, Rockville, MD*

Montgomery County, Maryland is a pioneer in water quality management and protection. Located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the County has been a leader in putting the concepts and practice of low impact development (LID) to work. Deploying decentralized stormwater management through aggressively encouraging practices such as bioswales and raingardens, water catchment (cisterns) and permeable pavement on public and private property is at the heart of their RainScapes program. Ann is deeply steeped in the industry as a landscape architect and horticulturist. She'll share insights into what's working and not working with Montgomery County's green infrastructure program geared to practitioners on the ground.

### Making the Case for Landscape Water Use

*Zachary S. Johnson, PLA, CLT, CLP, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Landscape Design and Contracting and Landscape Business Programs, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO*

Built landscapes provide economic and environmental benefits, as well as, improved quality life in cities and towns coast to coast. During times of drought, it is easy to look at the landscape and simply dismiss its importance as "non-essential" compared to other water-use stakeholders like agriculture, municipal and recreation. Indeed, restricting outdoor water use is generally the first regulatory action undertaken in times of drought. Zach and university colleagues have authored "The Hidden Value of Landscapes: Implications for Drought Planning," which helps explain the benefits of wisely invested water in our landscapes. Zach will share the case for why the landscape is a great investment of 3% of Colorado's water.