

Monthly Meetups and Continued Education Opportunities

When: Monthly, beginning in March, 3rd Thursdays

- 5:30 – 6:00pm snack and socialize
- 6:00 – 7:30pm presentation and Q&A

How much: \$5 donation to cover speakers and snacks

- (please RSVP w/ Juliette Olshock @ jolshock@phipps.conservatory.org, donation accepted at the door)

CEU's: Earn 2hrs CEUs for each session attended.

March 19: Challenging Sites: Hillside

Jonathan King | Village Gardener

5:30 – 7:30pm

Phipps Garden Center

See examples of a successful hillside gardening project. Learn unique strategies for increased beauty, erosion control and water management of this difficult to garden site.

April 16: Getting Deeper with Organic Lawn Care (and beyond!)

Jess Runco | Touch of Green

5:30 – 7:30pm

Phipps Garden Center

Learn about Organic Lawn Care options and how to transition a traditionally managed lawn to a healthy chemical free space. Also learn ways to reduce lawn and use substitutes for low growing minimally maintained plants to increase plant diversity.

May 21: Invasive Species Management

Celine T. Colbert | PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

5:30 – 7:30pm

Phipps Garden Center

Learn various techniques for managing invasive species in a home-scale environment. Learn techniques for managing pervasive problem plants including Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, stilt grass, barberry and oriental bittersweet. Be able to apply these management strategies to work on different invasive plants.

June 18: Increasing Habitat

Sarah Koenig | ASWP

Juliette Olshock | Phipps Sustainable Landcare

5:30 – 7:30pm

Phipps Garden Center

Learn about local gardening certificate programs so that you are ready to help homeowners pursue these certificates or to pursue your own. Learn about the Sustainable Plant Finder tool and how to use it for garden planning. Get a pollinator friendly plant list.

July 16: Visit Indian Hill Meadow

Joel Perkovich or Sara Madden | Allegheny County Parks Foundation

5:30 – 7:30pm

Indian Hill Meadow, Boyce Park

We will meet at Indian Hill Meadow at 6pm. Visit a growing meadow (its 3 years old!) in a local park and learn about the benefits of meadows, how to design them, the process of creating a meadow and challenges faced.

August 20: Stormwater Tour

Andrea Haynes | StormWorks

5:30 – 7:30pm

Biddle's Escape, 401 Biddle Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Tour rain gardens and stormwater solutions in Wilksburg and nearby neighborhoods. This will be a walking tour so be prepared with comfortable shoes and clothing.

September 17: Sustainable Inspirations Tour

Bill Lucki | Natural Garden Design

5:30 – 7:30pm

Monroeville

Visit the garden of a landcare professional dedicated to sustainable practices. See native plants of Western Pennsylvania in a beautiful home garden setting. Gain tips for design and garden planning.

October 15: Fall Care

Jess Horenstein or Gary Worthington | Phipps Conservatory

5:30 – 7:30pm

Phipps Garden Center

Learn strategies for fall garden care. What clean up should be done in the fall and what can be saved for the spring? Learn the balance between a tidy garden and a healthy garden ecosystem. Phipps gardeners will share their fall maintenance techniques.

November 19: Winter Pruning Tools and Techniques

Mitch Hall

5:30 – 7:30pm

Phipps Garden Center

Ensuring the correct pruning tools are being used and the correct cuts are being made is essential for the health and longevity of landscape plants. Learn to identify and maintain the correct tool for the job, discover the basic approach for pruning woody plants, and learn when, where, why and how to make appropriate cuts to plants.