

LUNCHEON SERIES

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

We are pleased to announce our next lunch hour speakers. Begins @ Noon

From Towering Giants to Exquisite Bonsai: The Legacy of Tree Care at Longwood Gardens

Conserving trees at Longwood Gardens can be traced back to its founder, Pierre S. du Pont, who purchased the original property in 1906 to save an allée of notable trees from being harvested for lumber. Chief Horticulture and Facilities Officer Sharon Loving will share Longwood's history and legacy of preserving and stewarding its historic tree collection, and future plans to expand its horticultural collection. Ms. Loving will be joined by Longwood's Kevin Bielicki, Horticulture Specialty Grower/Bonsai Curator, who manages Longwood's soon-to-be expanded bonsai collection.

Sharon Loving, Chief Horticulture and Facilities Officer, provides strategic leadership for the Horticulture and Facilities Core Team, which is responsible for upholding high standards of excellence across Longwood's gardens, natural lands, buildings, supporting infrastructure and systems. Longwood encompasses over 1,100 acres and includes a complex system of 192 buildings and structures which exceed 484,000 square feet, including a collection of world-renowned glass houses. The Horticulture and Facilities Departments consist of over two hundred full & part-time employees and three hundred volunteers.



Ms. Loving plays a leadership role to advance Longwood's organizational goals, including those tied to the strategic, site-master, and capital projects plans. She serves in an executive leadership capacity for the current Longwood

Reimagined Project and the recently completed Main Fountain Garden Revitalization Project.

Prior to moving into the Chief Horticulture and Facilities Role this May, Ms. Loving led Longwood's Horticulture Department for eighteen years. She has served as a public spokesperson on nationally syndicated television programs, such as Good Morning America and the Today Show, and has participated in judging opportunities both at the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Kevin Bielicki, Horticulture Specialty Grower/Bonsai Curator, is responsible for maintaining and growing Longwood's bonsai collection that consists of over 100 specimen Japanese trees. Mr. Bielicki works to expand Longwood's collection by increasing the variety and quality of trees available to the public while refining the current trees. Prior to this role, he assisted in the maintenance for The Kennett Collection, a world-renowned private bonsai garden, for over 12 years. Mr. Bielicki holds his MFA in sculpture from IUPUI and Minor in Art History from the University of Delaware. He has completed multiple public art commissions, has taught in a range of University Art programs, has exhibited internationally, and curated many exhibitions across the states. He sees his background in art and his work in bonsai as a dialogue where each inform each other. Through the exploration of the sculpture media, he can explore new possibilities in the art of bonsai and the curation arena.



Menu

Sliced Tomato and Mozzarella Salad
VEAL SCALLOPINI, MUSHROOM SAUCE
TOASTED ORZO - ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH
Tiramisu

Members will be billed for the cost of the Luncheon.

Please Contact the Club Office for Reservations! 302.658.4287 or wilmclub@comcast.net