

1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
PLANTING FOR DIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM  
U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
OCTOBER 10, 2015

PROGRAM

8:30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

Administration Building & Visitor Center

9:00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**Scott Aker**, Head of Horticulture and Education, U.S. National Arboretum

9:15 "FAMILY HEIRLOOM SEEDS: SAVING STORIES, PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY"

Families who have been active seed savers for generations not only preserve biodiversity, but they also keep alive the stories that were created along the way. **Ira Wallace** shares the history of the special people, plants, and places that have played an important role in the important work of seed savers.

10:15 "WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM'S ROLE?"

Arboretum director and plant geneticist **Dr. Richard Olsen** explains how the Arboretum staff and collections contribute to conserving important resources including popular ornamental plants that are seriously threatened by pests, diseases, climate, and more.

10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:00 "PRESERVING SEEDS FROM THE PAST AT MONTICELLO"

In Thomas Jefferson's day, his plant knowledge and gardening techniques were cutting-edge in the world of horticulture. Seed saving was integral to this success as it was to all early American gardens. **Peggy Cornett** demonstrates the methods and challenges used to preserve valuable seed crops in Jefferson's day and how they compare to our present-day practices. See how gardeners today are working to obtain, preserve, and cultivate the historic varieties that once thrived at this historic landmark.

12:00 LUNCH, BOOK SALES AND SIGNINGS

12:45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. SEED COLLECTION OF NATIVE PLANTS IN FERN VALLEY, **Joan Feely**

B. TOUR HERBARIUM & SEED HERBARIUM, **Joe Kirkbride**

C. SPECIAL PROJECTS IN CONSERVATION, **Kevin Conrad**

1:45 SEED EXCHANGE

**Kathy Jentz** describes the different types of seed libraries and swaps available in our communities and leads a seed exchange for you to participate in.

2:15 BREAK

2:30 "GARDENING WITH HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS"

Though many old varieties have been lost, there is still an exciting array of old-fashion edibles and ornamentals we can grow and enjoy today, from large meaty tomatoes to strongly perfumed roses to obscurities like love-in-a-puff. **Rosalind Creasy** shares her endless enthusiasm and her expert recommendations on selecting, growing, and using heirloom vegetables and flowers to enhance your garden and table. This beautifully illustrated talk will leave you energized and inspired to add another dimension to your gardening experience.

3:30 ADJOURN