

NEWS RELEASE

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(RIDGELY, MD—Sept. 18, 2013)

Author and Horticulturist Tom Christopher to Present *Sustainable Lawns—The Backyard Revolution* Oct. 9 at Academy Art Museum

With new statewide restrictions on lawn fertilizer use going in to effect this October to help achieve Bay restoration goals, now is the perfect time to learn how to reduce fertilizer use and protect water quality while keeping your lawn productive and healthy. Join **Tom Christopher**, founder of Smart Lawn LLC, Oct. 9 for a discussion on creating locally adapted biodiverse lawns that positively impact our environmental future.



Residential lawns occupy almost 50,000 square miles of the U.S. landscape—an area larger than the state of Pennsylvania. As presently cultivated, many are resource hogs and major sources of fertilizer pollution. Yet in just a few weeks, with a modest investment of time and materials, homeowners can turn an eco-villain lawn into a sustainable, easy-to-maintain expanse that gives back far more than it takes and is beautiful as well.

Christopher will discuss grass mixes and techniques needed to create lawns that require no summertime irrigation, little mowing, and little to no fertilization. He also will provide contacts for locally focused advice and information that will enable concerned homeowners to create their own sustainable lawns. Your lawn can reduce your carbon footprint, prevent water pollution, and provide a new opportunity for landscape color—and it's easy, once you know how.

Christopher is a graduate of the New York Botanical Garden School of Professional Horticulture. He has helped institutional and residential clients enhance their landscapes for more than 40 years. He is the author of ten books about gardening, and served as editor and a contributor to *The New American Landscape*, Timber Press's guide to sustainable gardening that was hailed by the American Society of Landscape Architects as one of the 10 best books of 2011. His work with lawns has been featured in *The Chicago Tribune* and in *Horticulture* magazine.

Christopher's talk is free and open to the public. It will be held Wed., Oct. 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Academy Art Museum, Easton. The program is offered by Adkins Arboretum in partnership with Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Advance registration is requested at adkinsarboretum.org or by calling 410.634.2847, ext. 0.

Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum offers educational programs for all ages about nature and gardening. Through its [Campaign to Build a Green Legacy](#), it will build the [W. Flaccus and Ruth B. Stifel Center at Adkins Arboretum](#) and a "green" entranceway to broaden educational offerings and research initiatives promoting best practices in conservation and land stewardship. For additional information about Arboretum programs, visit www.adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

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