

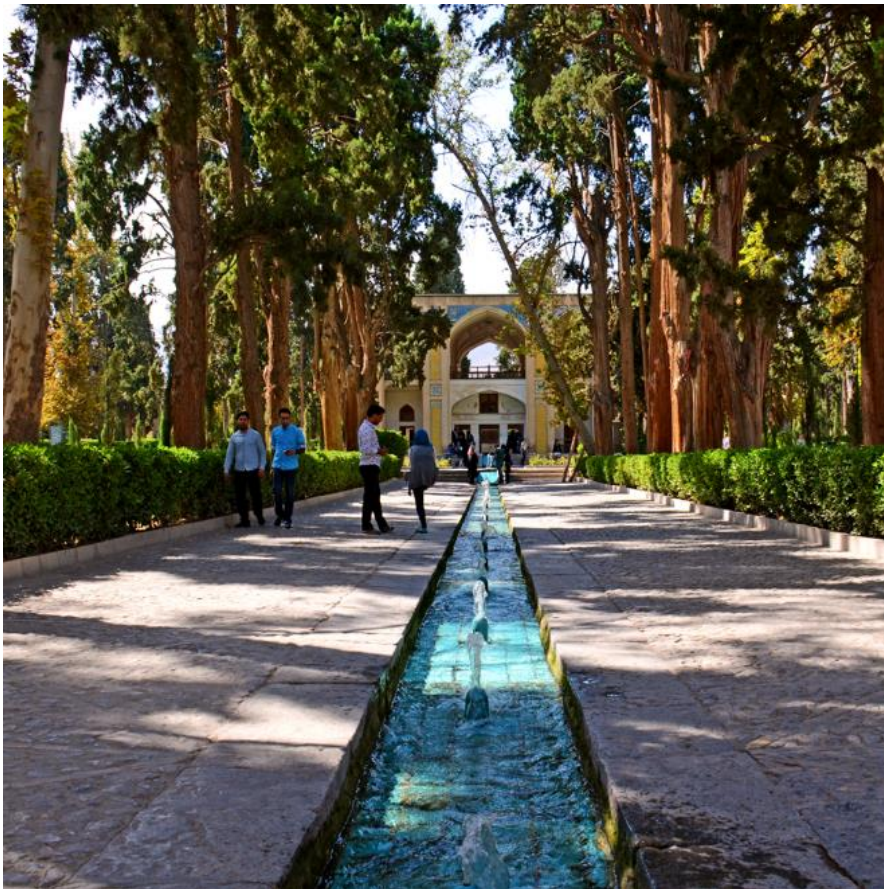
Botanical Society of Washington

Meeting #978

Presenter: Dr. Steve Lonker

Naturalist, traveler, photographer, Smithsonian volunteer

"The Persian Garden: 2,500 Years of Producing Earthly Paradise in Extreme Climate Through Innovations in Sustainable Landscape Design"



When: Tuesday, March 7th 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Abstract: The Persian Gardens trace their roots to the 6th century B.C.E. during the reign of Cyrus the Great and span 2,500 years of technological innovations in sustainable landscape and building design, water management, and micro-climate modification in a harsh, arid climate. Always divided into four quadrants intersecting at a central pool, water plays a key role in irrigation and sacred geometry. The gardens symbolize the Zoroastrian view of paradise on earth, Eden, with four rivers and the four divisions of earth. Nine of these gardens have been elected to UNESCO's World Heritage List under 'The Persian Garden.' These gardens offer one solution for creating sustainable green spaces in urbanized areas in arid and semi-arid climates through bioclimatic landscape and design approaches that mitigate heat islands, wind and dust storms, and air pollution through woody vegetation, manmade structures and water features.

Pre-meeting dinner: Meet at 5:30 pm at Elephant and Castle Pub and Restaurant.

Address: 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. (202-347-7707)

Transportation options: Federal Triangle (Blue/Orange) or Metro Center (Red/Blue/Orange).

Presentation Location: @ 7:00 pm, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History. Enter the building from Constitution Avenue entrance. A guide will escort you to **WG-33 Conference Room** (West Wing, ground floor).

Security access: If you do not hold a Smithsonian Institution issued security badge, please let the security guard know that you are here for the meeting. Otherwise, you can contact Erika Gardner (gardnere@si.edu) by **3 March 2017** to arrange a guest badge for you.

Light refreshments will be provided

