

Morris Arboretum Education Dept.
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118



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Analyzing the Wild, Designing the Garden



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Natural landscapes are inherently complex, shaped by intricate ecological processes and past human activity. A designer's ability to succeed amidst this complexity can be greatly enhanced through careful examination of relevant ecological research and analysis. Join us at our two-day conference as highly accomplished ecologists and designers explore the synthesis of sophisticated analysis and creative design.



dates & locations:

CT: Cummings Arts Center
Connecticut College Arboretum
New London, CT
January 12–13, 2017

PA: Science Center Auditorium
Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell, PA
January 19–20, 2017

CEUs available

sponsored *by*



(Developed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates)





The Forest Between the Trees: Herbaceous Layer Ecology & Forest Management (1 hr)

Frank S. Gilliam, Ph.D.

The forest herbaceous layer plays a critical role in forest structure and function, is highly sensitive to disturbance, and difficult to re-establish once lost. We will review the ecology of the forest herb layer and explore how management practices that closely resemble natural disturbance regimes can be adapted to preserve and establish this essential stratum in managed forests and woodland gardens.

Creating Garden Momentum (1¼ hrs)

Matthew Cunningham

In order to stand the test of time, gardens need to be responsive to changing conditions even as they continue to meet aesthetic expectations and design intent. Join landscape architect Matthew Cunningham as he explores how his firm's projects evolve over time and how this shapes his process—from concept, to installation and management.

The Ecosystems and Flora of Eastern North America: A Long and Surprising Tale of Evolution and Resilience (1 hr)

Alan Weakley, Ph.D. (CT only), Derick Poindexter (PA only)

The native ecosystems and flora of eastern North America have evolved over millions of years, accumulating raw materials from many biogeography sources and recombining and altering them into what we see today. Our modern natural communities show surprising juxtapositions of tropic, temperate, and boreal; ancient and modern; native and foreign. Studying this assemblage reveals a fascinating palimpsest of change through time—and can inform our design choices while enriching our experience of the landscapes in which we work.

Beatrix Farrand's Lost Garden: Historic Reclamation Meets Ecological Restoration (1 hr)

Ann Aldrich

In addition to the famed formal gardens at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, landscape architect Beatrix Farrand designed an adjacent 'wild garden.' Made into a separate park in 1940, this portion of the estate deteriorated from neglect. Learn how The Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy is balancing historic and ecological goals to reclaim this masterful landscape.

Native Annuals: An Underutilized Resource (¾ hr)

Ethan Dropkin

Although designers rarely use native annuals, this suite of plants offers numerous design applications, including seeding them in as placeholders, nurse crops, and gap fillers in response to disturbance. Explore a variety of native annuals, their biology, and uses in designed landscapes.

The Crosby Arboretum: Observing Big, Applying Small (1 hr)

Patricia Drackett

The Crosby Arboretum in coastal Mississippi is an icon of natural landscape design, preserving and displaying the region's native flora on 64 acres with minimal maintenance. The land, rather than traditional static displays, is the exhibit at Crosby as expressed through its ever-evolving plant communities. The Arboretum's director will demonstrate how Crosby's design and management can be applied at varied scales.

*Complimentary evening reception with beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Larry Weaner will sign copies of his recent book *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change*.

Fees

Fees (per person):

\$335 if received online or postmarked by Dec. 15, 2016.
\$360 if received online or postmarked after Dec. 15, 2016.

Student Rate (with student ID):

\$195 if received online or postmarked by Dec. 15, 2016.
\$220 if received online or postmarked after Dec. 15, 2016.

Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, break refreshments, and evening reception.

Pennsylvania Registrations:

Secure online registration: online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS or by phone at: (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.

Mail: send completed form and check payable to Morris Arboretum to:

Morris Arboretum, Education Department
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Please note Montgomery County Community College is not affiliated with the event and should not be contacted regarding the program.

Pennsylvania Accommodations:

Normandy Farm Hotel, (215) 616-8500.
Mention Landscape Symposium - Morris Arboretum for discounted rate by Dec. 27.

Connecticut Registrations:

Secure online registration: www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum or by phone at: (860) 439-5020.

Mail: send completed form and check payable to Connecticut College to:

Connecticut College Arboretum
270 Mohegan Avenue, Campus Box 5201
New London, CT 06320-4196

Connecticut Accommodations:

Holiday Inn, New London, 860-443-7000.
Mention CCA for discounted rate by Dec. 14.

Design Practice R&D: How One Firm’s Research Farm Informs and Advances Design (1¼ hrs)

Edward Marshall

The work of landscape architecture firm Stephen Stimson Associates is rooted in an agrarian sensibility and a strong environmental ethic. Learn how the firm’s unique research farm, a 100-acre mosaic of New England landscape typologies, informs their practice by serving as a nursery, agricultural arboretum, demonstration plots for indigenous plants, and testing ground for grazing as a management tool.

The Beautiful Adaptations and Regional Realities of Native Plant Traits (1 hr)

Dan Segal

This presentation will go beyond ‘pretty’ plant features and dig into the natural origins of certain plant traits. Understanding these traits as expressions of regional adaptation and survival, rather than simply ornamental attributes, will allow you to use natives more confidently and successfully. Learn how initially de-emphasizing aesthetics, ironically, can result in even more beautiful landscape compositions.

The Rich Potential of Poverty Grass (¾ hr)

Scott Warnke, Ph.D.

Poverty oatgrass (*Danthonia spicata*) is a native cool-season grass found throughout the Northeast. Its tolerance of shade and low-fertility soils suggest it has rich potential as a low-input turfgrass for our region. Dr. Warnke will discuss his recent research into the unique life cycle and establishment requirements for this much-needed native turf alternative.

Exploring the Boundaries of Wild Landscapes & Design (1 hr)

Uli Lorimer

Careful study of plants in the wild can prove invaluable to designers and gardeners, informing our understandings of opportunities and limits and often inspiring non-traditional techniques in the designed landscapes. This presentation will demonstrate the power of field observations and discuss implications for design, plant selection, and management of designed landscapes over time.

*Frederick Steiner’s book, *Human Ecology: How Nature and Culture Shape Our World*, will be available for sale and signing during lunch.

Restoring a Historic Ecological Laboratory: Lessons for Today and Beyond (1 hr)

Meg Ronsheim, Ph.D.

The book *American Plants for American Gardens* (1929) was visionary in its celebration of native plants. Perhaps less well known is that one of its authors, Edith Roberts, created an “ecological laboratory,” at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY that featured examples of all of the region’s major plant associations. Examining how those plantings fared over time, despite eventual neglect, can shed light on the potential resiliency of contemporary landscape plantings.

Design for a Vulnerable Planet (1 hr)

Frederick Steiner, Ph.D.

To heal the planet’s vulnerabilities, designers and planners must go beyond traditional concepts of sustainability and embrace innovative new design techniques that foster regeneration and resilience. This also means adopting a broad view of ecology that encompasses human and natural, urban and wild environments. Using precedents by pioneering landscape architect Ian McHarg and others, Steiner explores design practices for the future that are grounded in ecology and democracy and informed by critical regionalism.

Comments from 2016 Conference Attendees

“Love this program—one of the best out there!”

“This conference is very applicable to my work.”

“This program never disappoints. It always elevates me!! Thank you!!”



Mail-in Registration Form

Please print clearly:

Name(s) _____

Company (if applicable) _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please do not include me on the list of attendees.

Vegetarian lunch Meat lunch Gluten free lunch

Check one: Early Bird Regular Rate \$335 Regular Rate \$360
 Early Bird Student Rate \$195 Student Rate \$220

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

For payment by credit card please call or use the secure online registration options.

Registration will be refunded only if notification is received no later than seven (7) working days prior to the event less a \$15 processing fee.

Speakers

A 28-Year Tradition

Since its founding in 1990, our natural design conference has avoided trendy jargon in favor of landscape techniques that succeed in the real world. Speakers represent a wide range of fields and often provide information rarely found in traditional landscape programs. The varied experiences of our conference attendees, many of whom attend year after year, enhance our program and offer excellent opportunities for professional interaction.

Ann Aldrich served as the Restoration Director for the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy from 2011 to 2016, leading volunteers in the uncovering and restoration of Beatrix Farrand's only remaining wild garden. Aldrich teaches landscape and native plant classes for the George Washington University Landscape Design Program. She previously spent over 30 years at the Bureau of Land Management as a botanist, land use planner, and manager.

Matthew Cunningham is a landscape architect and principal of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design. He combines over 25 years of plant expertise with a deep appreciation of local history and traditional Yankee building techniques. His work has been widely published in *Design New England*, *Architectural Digest*, and *Garden Design*, and has received numerous awards. He previously worked for Reed Hilderbrand Associates.

Patricia Drackett is the Director of the Mississippi State University Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Mississippi and Assistant Extension Professor of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University. Prior to joining the Arboretum, she was a landscape designer and garden consultant for 20 years.

Ethan Dropkin is a designer with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates. He previously worked as a designer at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, as a horticultural designer and technician for Cornell University, and as a horticulturist for the New York City Parks Department. Since joining LWLA, he has been involved in designs for private residences and public parks.

Frank S. Gilliam, Ph.D. is professor of biological sciences at Marshall University in West Virginia. His research focuses on forest community ecology, secondary succession and species dynamics of the forest herbaceous layer. He has authored numerous articles and edited the recently republished *Herbaceous Layer in Forests of Eastern North America* (Oxford UP, 2014).

Uli Lorimer is the Curator of Native Flora at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, where he has been instrumental in creating a coastal plain meadow and pine barrens habitat. An avid plantsman, he strives to connect field botany with horticulture and design. He previously served as the woodland gardener at Wave Hill.

Edward Marshall is a landscape architect and principal at Stephen Stimson Associates. He has over 30 years of experience designing and constructing landscapes for corporate, institutional, and residential clients, with an emphasis on process and use of native plants. Prior to joining Stephen Stimson, he served as Corporate Landscape Architect for IBM Corporation.

Derick Poindexter is a Ph.D student at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and former Research Botanist at Appalachian State University. He has contributed to numerous publications, including the Flora of North America project, and he is presently studying phylogenetic patterns in *Carex* sect. *Acrocystis*. (PA only)

Meg Ronsheim, Ph.D is a Professor of Biology and a former Director of the Environmental Studies Program at Vassar College. Her research focuses on restoration ecology, the impact and management of invasive vines, and forest regeneration. Since 2010 she has worked with her students to restore the Edith Roberts Ecological Laboratory, one of the earliest ecological restoration projects in the country.

Dan Segal has over twenty years of experience in ecological restoration, landscape design and construction, and nursery propagation and production. Formerly manager of Pinelands Nursery, Segal owns The Plantsman Nursery in Groton, New York. He emphasizes seed and seed-grown plants as the most appropriate method of propagating and using native species.

Frederick Steiner, Ph.D is the Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Design and Scholar at the Penn Institute for Urban Research. He previously served as Dean and Chair of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin and served as the Architect in Residence at the American Academy in Rome. His publications include *Human Ecology: How Nature and Culture Shape Our World* (2016), *Design for a Vulnerable Planet* (2011), and *The Living Landscape: An Ecological Approach to Landscape Planning* (2008).

Scott Warnke, Ph.D. is a research geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service. He is researching the genetic improvement of stress tolerance and reduced input sustainability in turfgrasses with an emphasis on the genetic mechanisms of resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, development of genetic markers, and the development of alternative low maintenance turfgrass species.

Alan Weakley, Ph.D. is a plant taxonomist, plant ecologist, and conservation biologist whose work focuses on the flora, communities, and conservation of natural areas in the southeastern United States. He is the Director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Herbarium (a department of the North Carolina Botanical Garden), lead author of *Flora of Virginia*, and author of *Flora of the Southeastern United States* (CT only).