

BROADENING OUR LANDSCAPE VISION: ECOLOGY, CULTURE, AND ART

A VIRTUAL EDUCATION SERIES FOR
HOME GARDENERS, EDUCATORS, & STUDENTS

This live, virtual series will explore ways to create landscapes that are ecologically healthy, easily managed, and beautiful on residential and educational properties. Our acclaimed group of presenters, including Roy Diblik, Carol Gracie, Bill Cullina, Thomas Woltz, Abra Lee, Tom Wessels, and Larry Weaner will show how we can expand and transform our understanding of the relationship between people, culture, and nature where we live and learn.

Cosponsored by:

**WILD ONES - NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES
AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (AHS)
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER**

New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)

NDAL has presented programs throughout the U.S. focusing on the theory and practical application of an expansive vision of "Ecology-Based Design." Programs draw from a variety of disciplines including landscape design, the ecological sciences, anthropology, art, history, and agriculture.

In 2016, NDAL received the first Regional Impact Award from the Native Plant Trust (formerly the New England Wildflower Society).



June - September, 2021

REGISTER NOW

*Click above for Events Library
or click individual sessions below.*

Attendees eligible for AHS new or gift membership discount! See last page.

Photo by Larry Weaner

Live sessions will be recorded (unless otherwise specified) and viewable to registrants for 3 months. Registration closes after that 3 month period.

Questions? Email info@ndal.org



There is a desperate need for this information to go mainstream and be heard on a daily basis and it needs to be implemented now.

**-MICHAEL R.
2020 SUMMER SERIES ATTENDEE**

Home Gardeners

1.5 hours each | \$35 each

HISTORICAL ECOLOGY: USING PLANTS TO REVEAL THE PAST

Michael Gaige

Every landscape has a story that can be teased out using both field evidence and archival resources. This session explores the field marks of landscape history with a focus on plants that tell a broader story. While no individual plant species can explain a site's land use history entirely, when taken collectively, plant associations reveal patterns of past land use. The concepts can help achieve a better understanding of your own land, deepen your understanding of natural areas, and consider the species selections for planting locations.

Thursday, June 24th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH NATURE: NATIVE DESIGN IN THE RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Larry Weaner, FAPLD

Few home landscapes can provide the stunning vistas of a Yosemite National Park, a vast midwestern prairie, or an ancient Appalachian mountain range. They can however, provide a far more intimate and interactive natural experience than visiting those landscapes ever could. In this session Larry will interweave a series of practical, ecologically-interactive landscape techniques, with the rich experiential rewards that applying those techniques can engender.

Wednesday, June 30th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT

[View a recorded excerpt](#)



Photo by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

ORGANIC LANDSCAPING: A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING

Mike Nadeau

Organic landscaping entails more than switching from conventional to organic products. It compels a new mindset that recognizes fundamental change in the ways we think about landscape, and is long overdue. We will explore the deeper origins of "organic thinking" and how it has enabled the 21st Century landscape to be born.

Monday, July 19th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT

Home Gardeners *continued*

1.5 hours each | \$35 each

NATIVE MEADOWS: LET'S GET REAL

Larry Weaner, FAPLD

Wildflower meadows were introduced to the American gardening public in the 1960's along with tie dye tee shirts and kaleidoscopic acid trips. But just like those 60's acid trips, the colors never lasted. Alternatively, by planting site-adapted native perennials, managed according to the ecological processes that govern open field vegetation in the wild, long-lived vibrant meadows can be consistently achieved. In this presentation plant selection criteria, planting procedures, and management techniques will be illustrated through a series of residential case studies, including some over two decades old.

Thursday, August 12th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT

[View a recorded excerpt](#)



Photo by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

"LIKE PAINTING A PICTURE": GARDENS OF BLACK AMERICANS

Abra Lee

From George Washington Carver to Zora Neale Hurston and more lesser-known self-taught horticulturists, Black Americans have laid out the blueprint for garden design in their own personal spaces. In this presentation and conversation we will discuss these historic legacies and the plants they used to beautify homes and communities.

Tuesday, August 17th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT

By far the most valuable session I have participated in among ALL offerings from across ALL gardening/farming/ecology organizations that I'm involved with.

**-SHEILA B., NAVIGATING RACE & INCLUSIVITY IN COMMUNITY GARDENS
ATTENDEE, 2021 WINTER SERIES**

Students & Educators

1.5 hours | Free

ENTERING THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONS

Ujiji Davis Williams, PLA, ASLA & Larry Weaner, FAPLD

This session will illustrate the varying roles that landscape professionals can play in their communities. Through projects ranging from playground design and construction to neighborhood scale planning, landscape architect Ujiji Davis Williams will illustrate the variety of work landscape architects do, and what it takes to enter the field. Landscape designer and contractor Larry Weaner will talk about the opportunities and challenges of starting a small landscape construction or maintenance business, particularly when few resources are available.

Wednesday, June 23rd | 4 - 5:30 PM EDT



Advanced Gardeners & Professionals

See [Professional Brochure](#) for additional advanced programs
CEUs available

USING NATIVE PLANTS FOR FIRE-RESISTANT LANDSCAPES

Greg Rubin

Far from being the fire-bombs often depicted in the media, a native landscape can be an ecologically responsible approach to creating effective defensible space. Not one of Greg's client's homes were lost in nearly 3 dozen major fire events. Consequently, the US Navy selected his company to conduct a 5-year research study into the effectiveness of California native landscapes as enhanced defensible space. Greg's co-Principal Investigator was Dr. Jon Keeley, one of the world's foremost fire ecologists. Greg will cover the startling results, as well as general principles for successful native landscape design, installation, and maintenance in fire-prone areas.

Tuesday, June 29th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT / 10 - 11:30 AM PDT | \$48

DESIGNING ECOLOGICAL SPACES FOR CHILDREN: CASE STUDIES FROM THE US & DENMARK

Willa Caughey

Evidence abounds that children benefit from time spent in nature-based environments, yet concerns over safety and maintenance often result in standardized, single-purpose spaces. In this presentation, Willa Caughey will draw on research and case studies in the U.S. and Denmark to explore how schools, parks, playgrounds, and the other spaces children occupy can support children's development, cultivate independence and resilience, complement curriculum-based learning goals, increase time spent outside, and fulfill vital ecological functions by introducing more nature to the children's realm.

Friday, July 9th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT | \$48

Interdisciplinary Roundtable

LAWNS, LEAVES, & LAWS: PRACTICAL PATHWAYS TOWARD LAWN ALTERNATIVES & ECOLOGICAL TURF CULTIVATION

Sarah Schindler, Rod Simmons, Nancy Lawson, & Chip Osborne

Many now recognize that the dominance of manicured lawns in many of our landscapes is environmentally harmful. That said, many homeowner's associations and municipalities are regulating front yard plant heights and store shelves are still stocked to the brim with pesticide products composed of harmful chemicals. An environmental law professor, two ecologists, and an organic turf expert will share practical ways to overcome these hurdles and create more ecologically beneficial landscapes. Their short presentations will be followed by an extensive roundtable discussion and audience Q&A enriched by their interdisciplinary perspectives.

Thursday, August 5th | 1:00 - 4:30 PM EDT | \$88

Advanced Home Gardeners & Professionals *continued*

See [Professional Brochure](#) for additional advanced programs
CEUs available

WOODLANDS: THE PLANTS AND PROCESSES

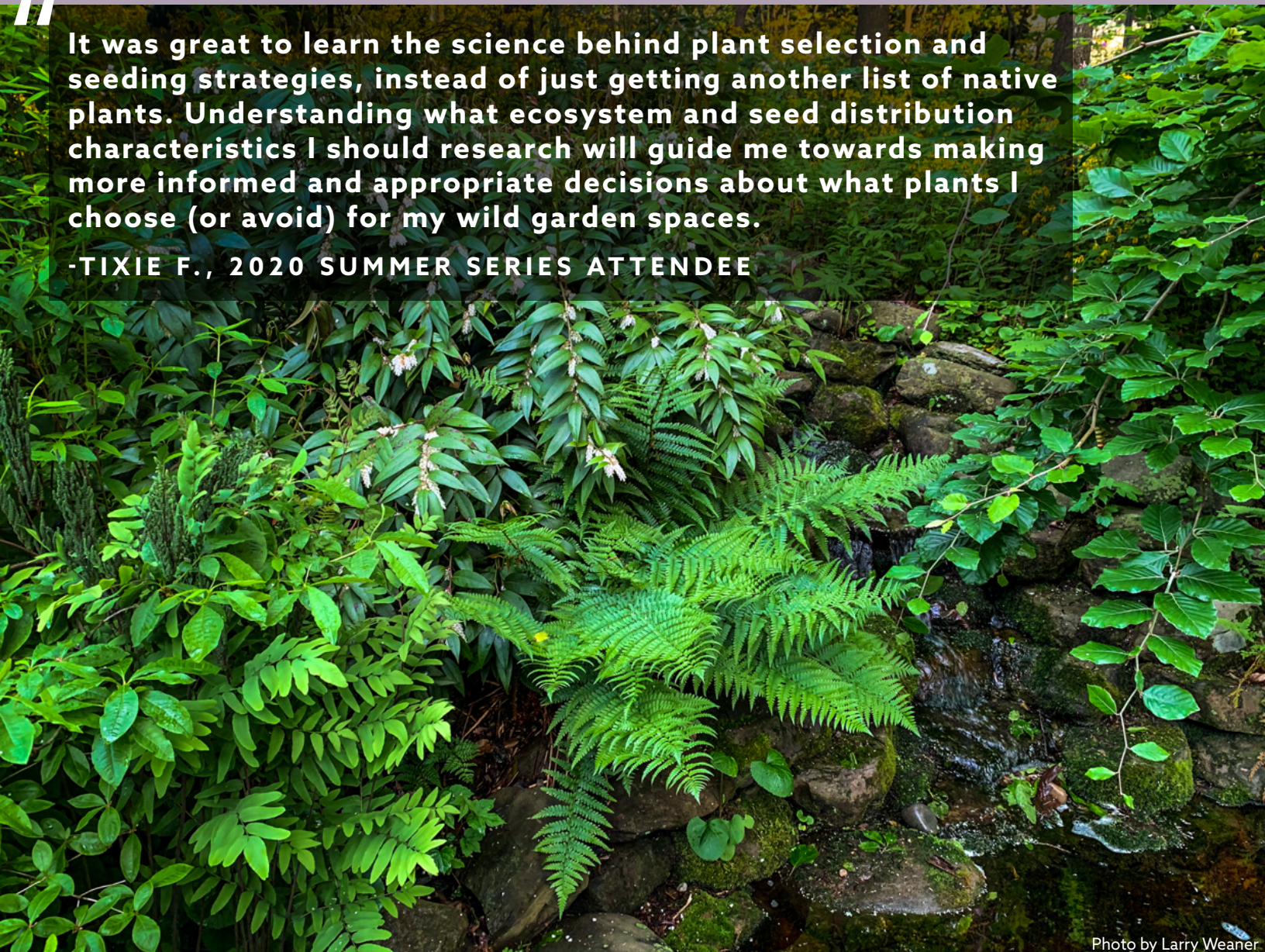
Bill Cullina & Carol Gracie

We cannot restore what we do not understand. While it is important to see plant species and even cultivars as individuals with differing needs and attributes, it is also important to understand their role in natural communities. First, Bill Cullina will review some emerging, fascinating, and revealing research on forest ecology, plant phytogeography, pollination ecology and symbiosis. Carol Gracie will discuss pollination, seed dispersal, and other means of proliferation; as well as other faunal associations. Finally, presenters will have an informal conversation and field questions on this macro-micro connection, and the real-world ramifications for garden designers.

Wednesday, August 11th | 1 - 4:30 PM EDT | \$88

It was great to learn the science behind plant selection and seeding strategies, instead of just getting another list of native plants. Understanding what ecosystem and seed distribution characteristics I should research will guide me towards making more informed and appropriate decisions about what plants I choose (or avoid) for my wild garden spaces.

-TIXIE F., 2020 SUMMER SERIES ATTENDEE



"Prairie-side" Chats

1.5 hours each | \$45 each

Frequently, the side tangents that lecturers don't have time to explore can be as enlightening as the core material that they do cover. In this series Landscape Designer Larry Weaner will allow some of today's most influential landscape practitioners to more fully explore those tangents. Through a planned interview, off the cuff conversation, and questions from participants, the session will explore some of the underlying influences, encounters, and revelations that have shaped their work.

CHARLES ALLEN, MALCOLM VIDRINE, & MARC PASTOREK: PRAIRIE LOST AND FOUND (INTERVIEWED BY LARRY WEANER)

Two-and-a-half million acres of southwestern Louisiana's Cajun Prairie has been displaced by agriculture, development, and petroleum extraction. The prairie's loss has been so complete for so long that most residents were not aware that it ever existed. That has changed, however, due in large part to the guests on this panel. During this session we will explore how discovering the last prairie remnants on old railroad beds led to a realization of the interdependence of prairie and fire, which resulted in the first successful restorations in the region. Their discovery of the "lost" Cajun Prairie, and their investigations into the "unseen" drivers that determined the fate of that prairie, can provide inspiration to practitioners throughout the United States.

Wednesday, July 7th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT



Marc Pastorek collects seeds for a Cajun Prairie restoration

THOMAS WOLTZ: CRAFT, CONSERVATION, & CATTLE (INTERVIEWED BY LARRY WEANER)

Given his education in the fields of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Fine Arts, and Architectural History, it is not surprising that Thomas Woltz takes a broad approach in his design practice. Throw in a love of "working lands" and "wild places" derived from growing up on a North Carolina farm and you have an individual who defines Landscape Architecture much more expansively than most. This informal interview and conversation will explore the many paths that have led to, and intersect at, Thomas's practice at Nelson Byrd Woltz, a firm that received 11 ASLA awards in 2020 alone.

Wednesday, July 14th | 1 - 2:30 PM EDT

I almost forgot I was not in the same room with them, eavesdropping on their chat.

-DONNA E., LARRY WEANER CHAT WITH DOUG TALLAMY, 2020 SUMMER SERIES ATTENDEE

"Prairie-side" Chats *continued*

1.5 hours each | \$45 each

LESLIE SAUER: BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, HERE'S WHAT I'VE LEARNED (INTERVIEWED BY LARRY WEANER)

Our conversation will cover the revolutionary professional road that Leslie has traveled from her studies at the University of Pennsylvania under Ian McHarg, through her 25 years as founding partner of the groundbreaking Landscape Architecture firm Andropogon and Associates, to her present day activism on the underappreciated importance of Proforestation in ameliorating climate change. Leslie Sauer tends to speak her mind, and the informal format of this session will afford her the opportunity to candidly reflect on a storied career that has spanned the entire trajectory of the modern landscape ecology movement.

Wednesday, July 21st, | 1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT

TOM WESSELS: INTERPRETING THE INTERTWINED HISTORY OF PEOPLE & NATURE (INTERVIEWED BY LARRY WEANER)

Whether you are standing in a second generation forest or atop an ancient granite dome, clues that reveal the concurrent forces of people and nature over time are very likely evident - if you learn to see them. And learning to see them may be more relevant than you think. Minute observations on the shape of a single tree stump or the configuration of an historic farm wall can alter your understanding of a landscape site. Our conversation will explore Tom Wessels's fascinating career investigating these forces, teaching people how to interpret them, and illustrating the use of this information to make more informed landscape decisions.

Wednesday, July 28th | 1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Charles Allen is a retired Professor of Biology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and retired Senior Research Associate with Colorado State University stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He is a founding member of the Louisiana Native Plant Society and the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society. Charles has helped to restore Cajun Prairie and presented several papers about this prairie at several North American Prairie Conferences.

Willa Caughey is an associate at Bay Tree Design in Berkeley, CA, with master's degrees in Landscape Architecture and Ecological Design. A native of the Bay Area, Willa spent several years living in Copenhagen, Denmark, primarily designing spaces for children. At Bay Tree Design, her portfolio includes schools, senior housing, and residential projects. Willa is passionate about creating healthy, engaging spaces that promote connection to nature for all users, particularly children.



William Cullina has recently become the F. Otto Haas Executive Director at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania after eleven years at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine. William holds degrees in plant science and psychology and has been working in public horticulture for 25 years. Prior to that, he was involved in horticultural and forestry research, and commercial nursery production. His books include, *Wildflowers, Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (2002); *Understanding Orchids* (2004); *Native Ferns, Mosses and Grasses* (2008); and *Understanding Perennials* (2009).

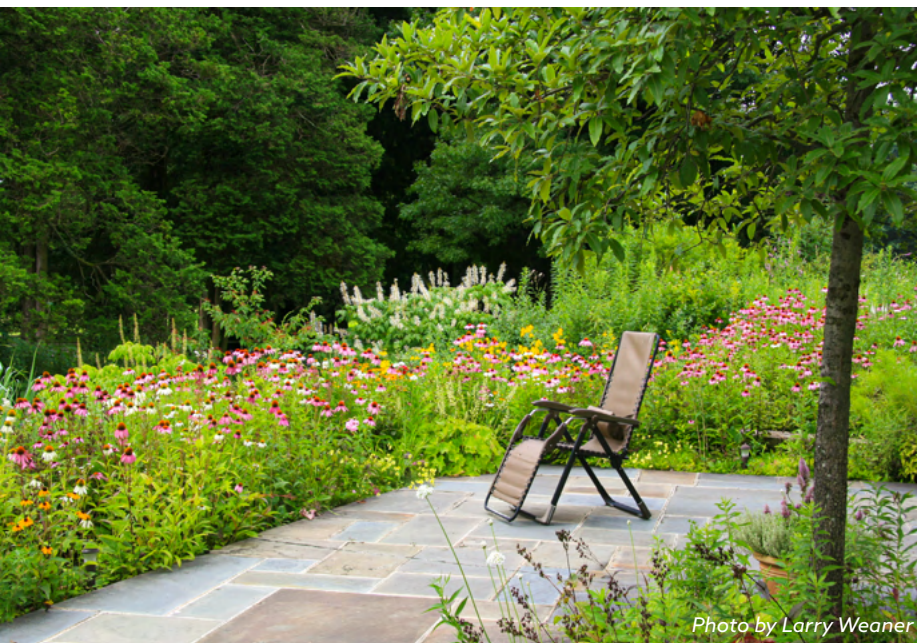


Photo by Larry Weaner



Truly inspiring. I've been interested in a more ecologically sustainable yard/garden and I am thrilled to have found professionals and resources to help me accomplish this.

- BONNIE W.
2020 SUMMER SERIES
ATTENDEE

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES *continued*

Michael Gaige is an independent consulting ecologist based in upstate New York. His work explores the intersection of nature and history at the landscape level. Michael works with organizations, private landowners, and design teams on park and landscape projects, historical ecology inventories, and conservation planning for natural areas. Michael teaches field studies programs for several colleges and universities.



Carol Gracie is retired from her role at The New York Botanical Garden, where she spent many years leading natural history tours and exploring South American rainforests for plants. She has since returned to her earlier interest in local flora, publishing three books on this topic: *Wildflowers in the Field and Forest: A Field Guide to the Northeastern United States* (2006, co-authored, with Steven Clemants), *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History* (2012), and *Summer Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History* (2020). Carol's most recent book, a more general book on flowers and related subjects (Princeton, 2021) is titled *Florapedia*.

Nancy Lawson founded The Humane Gardener, LLC, to pioneer wildlife-friendly planting strategies. A habitat consultant and national speaker on garden ecology, she is the author of *The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife* (2017). Lawson's presentations at diverse venues—from national wildlife refuges to local wildflower preserves—have inspired even seasoned horticulturists and ecologists to look at their own landscapes in new ways. Certified as a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional and master naturalist, she partners with local environmental organizations, including the Audubon Society of Central Maryland and Howard County Bee City, and has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Oprah Magazine*.



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES *continued*



Abra Lee is a speaker, writer, and founder of Conquer the Soil, a community that uses history and current events to engage people in the art of horticulture. She has spent a great deal of time in the dirt as a municipal arborist, extension agent, airport landscape manager, and more. Abra is a graduate of Auburn University College of Agriculture and an alumna of the Longwood Gardens Society of Fellows, a global network of public horticulture professionals.

Starting in the landscape and tree business in 1967, **Mike Nadeau** co-founded an organic landcare company in 1982. Using a totally organic approach, the company pioneered the organic landcare movement. As a founding member of the Northeast Organic Farming Association's Organic Land Care Program, Mike helped to create the first Organic Landcare Standards, produced a professional-level 40-hour course in Organic Land Care, and has been an instructor of the course for 19 years. He now helps clients to envision and devise organic and ecological 21st Century landscapes.



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES *continued*



Chip Osborne is a professional horticulturist with over forty-five years of experience in the green industry. Formally from the conventional world, he has embraced organic land management practices for the past twenty-five years and works as a consultant converting conventional management practices to organic on a national level. He is a NOFA accredited Organic Land Care Professional, a member of the Board of Directors of Beyond Pesticides, and a twenty-year elected member of the Town of Marblehead MA Recreation and Parks Commission.

Marc Pastorek is a consultant and landscape designer specializing in restoring Gulf coastal prairies by way of wild-collected seed. Marc has created restoration projects using his own seed mixes and innovative planting strategies. He and his wife Candi have operated their Louisiana-based landscape firm Pastorek Habitats for over 20 years.



Greg Rubin founded California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc. in 1995, emphasizing a uniquely ecological approach to landscape design. Greg (with Lucy Warren) co-authored two best-selling books from Timber Press: *The California Native Landscape* (2013), and *The Drought Defying California Landscape* (2016). He has made frequent appearances in television & radio, as well as written articles for (or been featured in) numerous publications. In 2018, he was chosen Horticulturist of the Year by the San Diego Horticultural Society.



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES *continued*

Leslie Sauer, a founder emeritus of Andropogon Associates, is a pioneer in the field of ecological restoration. She was an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania in Landscape Architecture and served on the Board of Directors of the Society for Ecological Restoration. Her book, *The Once and Future Forest* (Island Press, 1998) is a guidebook for restoring and managing natural landscapes-especially remnant deciduous forests.



Sarah Schindler is the Maxine Kurtz Faculty Research Scholar and Professor of Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She teaches and writes about property, land use, and local government law. For the first twelve years of her academic career, Professor Schindler taught at the University of Maine School of Law, where she was most recently the Edward S. Godfrey Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Research. Prior to entering academia, Professor Schindler clerked for Judge Will Garwood of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Austin, Texas and practiced in the area of land use and environmental law at Morrison and Foerster in San Francisco.

Photo by Nadra Photography

Rod Simmons, Natural Resource Manager and Plant Ecologist for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, has worked extensively in the fields of natural resource management and ecological restoration for nearly 30 years. Rod is a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates, and works closely with the Virginia and Maryland natural heritage programs. A member and past president of the Botanical Society of Washington and past president of the Maryland Native Plant Society, Rod serves on the board of the Virginia Native Plant Society and is a regular field trip leader for all of these organizations. He is a frequent lecturer on native plants, natural communities, ecological restoration, and other related topics.



Inspiring and hopeful--and an antidote to deep anxiety about climate change and environmental degradation. I love the idea of making a backyard conservation site.

-2020 SUMMER SERIES ATTENDEE

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES *continued*

Dr. Malcolm Vidrine is a retired Professor of Biology from the Louisiana State University Eunice in Eunice, Louisiana. He is a founding member of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society. He has helped to restore Cajun Prairie and presented several papers about this prairie at several North American Prairie Conferences. He has also authored/coauthored 10 books/chapters on the Cajun Prairie, and with the help of his wife, he has created his home landscape gardens, The Cajun Prairie Gardens.



Photo by Linda Auld



Photo by Rob Cardillo

Larry Weaner, FALPD, president and founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, established New Directions in the American Landscape in 1990. He is nationally recognized for combining expertise in horticulture, landscape design, and ecological restoration. His design and restoration work spans more than twenty US states and the UK, and has been profiled in national publications, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Garden Design, American Gardener, Wildflower Magazine, and ASLA's "The Dirt" blog. His book *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* (2016) received an American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2017.

Tom Wessels is professor emeritus at Antioch University where he founded the masters degree program in Conservation Biology. As a terrestrial ecologist he has interests in forest, desert, alpine, and arctic ecosystems plus evolutionary ecology and sustainability. He is author of numerous books including *Reading the Forested Landscape* (1997) and *The Myth of Progress* (2006). His latest book is *New England's Roadside Ecology: Explore 30 of the Region's Unique Natural Areas* (2021).



It was like having seeds scattered across my landscaping consciousness! A good overview and then lots and lots of details to guide my home landscaping process and spark inspiration for things I can do.

-MICHAEL R., 2020 SUMMER SERIES ATTENDEE

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES *continued*



Based in Detroit, **Ujiji Davis Williams** is a practicing landscape architect and urban planner who focuses on landscape and urban design, master planning and strategic implementation. She is currently an Associate at SmithGroup, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Architecture. In 2019, she won the ASLA Bradford Williams Medal of Excellence for her critical essay, "The Bottom: The Emergence and Erasure of Black American Urban Landscapes," and in 2020, she received the Michigan ASLA Emerging Professionals Award. Originally from Brooklyn, Ujiji holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University, and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan.

Over the past two decades of practice, landscape architect **Thomas Woltz** has forged a body of work that integrates the beauty and function of built forms with an understanding of complex biological systems and restoration ecology. As principal of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBW, Woltz has infused narratives of the land into the places where people live, work and play, inspiring connections to the natural world and engendering environmental stewardship.



Questions? Email info@ndal.org

Or call NDAL Executive Director
Sara Weaner at **510-518-0430**

REGISTER HERE

Attendees are eligible for a discounted individual American Horticultural Society membership—a \$10 savings!—off the regular \$35 membership fee. Information will be included in your registration confirmation email.