

# NATURAL DESIGN:

## An Intensive Two-Day Workshop

Instructors: Larry Weaner, FAPLD, Ethan Dropkin, MLA  
 Cosponsored by CT Audubon Society

**Demand for high performing**, ecology-based landscapes is increasing faster than the availability of the specialized knowledge needed for practitioners to achieve them. This intensive two-day workshop will provide concrete, real world guidance for designing and documenting native meadows, shrublands, and woodlands. We will also discuss adapting these wild landscapes to the "fine garden" scale for smaller projects and properties.

**Attendees will receive** an extensive manual (100+ pages, digital, indefinitely accessible on NDAL's website) that documents all aspects of the program, including plant selection criteria, plant recommendations, ecological process-based management specifications, and guidance for maximizing the aesthetic and experiential appeal these landscapes can provide.

For detailed program information and to register online, visit [ndal.org/2020-design-workshop/](http://ndal.org/2020-design-workshop/)

To register online, click [here](#).

To register by mail or phone, use the registration form on the last page of this brochure.

**This indoor, two-day course will be held:**

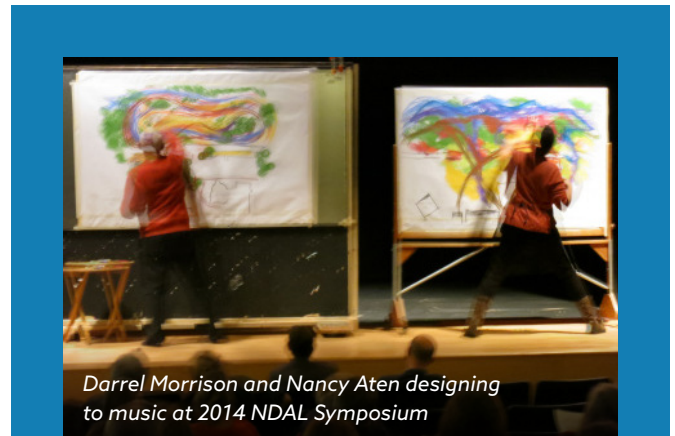
**Feb. 3-4, 2020** | Pomfret Center, CT  
 Cosponsored by *CT Audubon Society*



You have made a great contribution to the field through your conferences.

– LESLIE SAUER, *Founding Principal (Retired), Andropogon Associates, Philadelphia, PA*

For attendee evaluation survey results from our recent series of design workshops, see our [Attendee Reviews](#) page.



*Darrel Morrison and Nancy Aten designing to music at 2014 NDAL Symposium*

### New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)

NDAL provides educational programming for the advancement of ecology-based landscape design, implementation and management. Founded in 1990 by landscape designer Larry Weaner, programs have been presented throughout the US, and have focused on innovative theory, practical application, and an expansive vision of "Natural Design."

In addition to its core focus on landscape design and the ecological sciences, programs have drawn from a variety of additional disciplines including agriculture, anthropology, landscape history and fine art.

**In 2016, NDAL received the first Regional Impact Award from the New England Wildflower Society.**



CEUs Available

# DAY 1: DESIGN TECHNIQUES AND PLANT SELECTION

Instructors: Larry Weaner, FAPLD, and Ethan Dropkin, MLA

## Foundations of Native Design (3.25 hrs)

Our opening presentation will examine those characteristics of spontaneous plant communities with particular relevance to ecology-based landscape design. Ecological processes will be explored, including disturbance, competition, landscape pattern, ecological succession, and relative ecological stability; as well as individual species traits like habitat fidelity, growth pattern, spatial and temporal niche, and proliferation strategy. We will conclude by connecting these science-based concepts to a series of concrete design protocols for the creation of landscapes that are both ecologically functioning and artistically inspiring.

Part 1 | Core Ecological Principles

Part 2 | Ecology-Based Design

## Meadows (2 hrs)

While meadows are in high demand, effective protocols for designing them are in short supply. Here we will delve into the nitty gritty of meadow design: site analysis, species selection, seed mix formulation, and the integration of live plants. Guidance will also be provided for layout and composition of paths and openings, transition zones where turf meets meadow or meadow meets wild edges, and altered meadow approaches that accommodate “not so wild” client preferences.

Part 1 | Design Principles: Art and Ecology

Part 2 | Plants: Physical Characteristics and Ecological Context



I have been working in landscaping for over 35 years and came away from the workshop with inspiration, energy and new ideas.

-2019 WORKSHOP ATTENDEE



I am amazed how generous you were with your presentation, specs, plant lists. I feel like I struck gold - you saved us sooo much time.

-2019 WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

## Shrublands (1 hr)

To the wildlife ecologist, a patchwork of meadow, forest, and shrubland is the ideal landscape mosaic. In landscape design, however, the shrub component is often omitted, leaving both ecological and aesthetic potential untapped. On the micro level we will discuss plant arrangement and spacing, including differing approaches for clonal and clump forming species. On the macro level we will illustrate the use of shrublands as a “connective tissue” between meadow and woods.

Part 1 | Design Principles: Art and Ecology

Part 2 | Plants: Physical Characteristics and Ecological Context

**Registration and Continental Breakfast – 8:30 AM**

**Program begins at 9 AM, adjourns at 5:00PM**

**Lunch and snacks will be provided**



Photo by New Directions in the American Landscape  
Larry Weaner speaks at the 2019 NDAL Design Workshop at  
Black Rock Forest Consortium in Cornwall, NY

# DAY 2: PLANTING, MANAGEMENT, AND DOCUMENTATION

Instructors: Larry Weaner, FAPLD, and Ethan Dropkin, MLA

## Woodlands (2 hrs)

Establishing woodlands is the design of a process as much as a planting plan. Guided succession can foster the orderly transformation from an open field to a multi-tiered forest through planting, managed natural recruitment, or a combination of the two. In existing woods, combining live plantings of woodland herbs with a plan to assist the dispersal of their seeds can turn an isolated garden into an expansive ground layer. Along with a detailed discussion of these and other key approaches, we will describe those few woodland herbs that can be seeded directly into the landscape, including important new information on the viability of planting woodland sedges from seed.

Part 1 | Design Principles: Art and Ecology

Part 2 | Plants: Physical Characteristics and Ecological Context

## Planting and Management: Techniques and Documentation (3.25 hrs)

Many ecology-based field techniques run counter to traditional practice and are unfamiliar to even highly experienced contractors. Consequently, it is crucial for designers to not only understand these techniques but provide precise specifications for their execution. Innovative field techniques such as phased planting, timed mowing, selective height mowing, sunlight manipulation, assisted seed dispersal, and others will be described in detail. We will also discuss organizational formats for creating written specifications that distinguish between short-term and long-term management procedures and balance the need for both detail and usability.

Part 1 | Understanding the Techniques

Part 2 | Creating the Specifications



Photo by Mark Weaner

## Communicating the Vision and the Reality (1 hr)

Natural landscapes can range from “wall-to-wall wild” to “wild capsules” within a highly defined formal landscape. Determining your clients’ comfort level within that spectrum early on will increase both design efficiency and enthusiasm for the built landscape. Accurately conveying the visual character, development time, and management requirements during the design process is also crucial. Finally, providing insight into the intellectual rationales for your decisions will convey to the client that “wild landscaping” is not a random assortment of native plants, but a carefully considered landscape endeavor.

**Registration and Continental Breakfast – 8:30 AM**

**Program begins at 9 AM, adjourns at 5:00 PM**

**Lunch and snacks will be provided**



Thank you for a wonderful course. It was perhaps the perfect two day course and very user friendly for design professionals.

-2019 WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

# INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES



**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 states 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. Larry has presented at American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) annual meetings and state chapter meetings, Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) events, and many others. His book *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Design* (2016) received an American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2017.

*Photo by Kim Sokoloff*



**Ethan Dropkin, MLA**, landscape designer at Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA), has an extensive and in depth understanding of native plants, the patterns and processes they express in nature, and their effective use in the designed landscape. He has been involved with numerous private gardens and public projects including Riverwalk Park in Tarrytown, NY, and a planting plan for Kingsland Wildflowers in Brooklyn, NY. Prior to joining LWLA, Ethan worked as a designer at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, as a horticultural designer and technician for Cornell University, and as a horticulturalist for the New York City Parks Department. Ethan has a BA in Secondary Education from the University of Vermont, a MA in Landscape Architecture and a MPS in Horticulture from Cornell University.



I really enjoyed it all and thought the knowledge base was excellent and well communicated. I've followed you for many years. Happy and grateful for moving the needle and sharing so much.

-2019 WORKSHOP  
ATTENDEE



*Photo by Mark Weaner*

# REGISTRATION

## Mail in registration

Print and mail form, addressed to:

New Directions in the American Landscape  
2920 Mt. Carmel Ave.  
Glenside, PA 19038

## Online registration

Visit [here](#)

## Email registration

Complete form and email as attachment to:

Sara Weaner, NDAL Executive Director  
sweaner@ndal.org

## Call in registration

Call: Sara Weaner, NDAL Executive Director  
510-518-0430

## Fees (full two-day attendance)

**\$520** - Early Bird Rate (registration received no later than one month before event)

**\$545** - Regular Rate

**\$275** - Student Rate (must include proof of student status with registration form and present current ID at event)

**The following CEU credits have been requested (and approved for previous NDAL design workshops):** LACES (ASLA, 6 per day, all courses approved as HSW credit hours), APLD (6 per day), NOFA (4 total), ISA

# MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

Please print clearly:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title

\_\_\_\_ Landscape designer

\_\_\_\_ Landscape architect

\_\_\_\_ Horticulturist

\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be connected with local attendees to carpool to the event?      Yes      No

How did you hear about this event?

\_\_\_\_ NDAL email

\_\_\_\_ NDAL website

\_\_\_\_ Cosponsor email

\_\_\_\_ Calendar of events or newsletter from another organization: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you seeking continuing education credits at this workshop? If yes, please select which type below.

LACES (ASLA - American Society of Landscape Architects)

APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Designers)

NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association)

ISA (International Society of Arboriculture)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Early Bird Rate (registration received no later than 1 month before event) \$520

\_\_\_\_ Regular Rate \$545

\_\_\_\_ Student Rate (please enclose proof of student status and bring student ID to event) \$275

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian lunch

Vegan lunch

Gluten-free lunch

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

Registration will be refunded only if notification is received no later than seven (7) working days prior to the event less a \$20 processing fee.