

DESIGNED GARDENS AS PLANT COMMUNITIES: BLENDING HORTICULTURE, DESIGN AND ECOLOGY

As the demand for ecological landscapes dramatically increases, it is important that we as landscape architects and designers, horticulturists and land planners develop concrete and reliable strategies for their design and implementation. In this symposium, an outstanding group of designers, horticulturists and ecologists will explore, in an interactive and in-depth format, ways to combine ecological understanding with a knowledge of horticulture and design to create ornamental gardens that function as plant communities and mirror the beauty and grace of the natural world.

Co-sponsored by - **The Connecticut College Arboretum**
The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
"New Directions in the American Landscape" seminar series
of Larry Weaner Landscape Design

LOCATIONS:

January 15th and 16th, 1994 - Connecticut College, New London, Ct.
January 18th and 19th, 1994 - Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, Pa.
(adjacent to Morris Arboretum)



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"DESIGNED GARDENS AS PLANT COMMUNITIES: BLENDING HORTICULTURE, DESIGN AND ECOLOGY"

DAY 1

Connecticut College Arboretum: Saturday, January 15, 1994
Morris Arboretum (at Chestnut Hill College): Tuesday, January 18, 1994

8:30-9:15 Registration, Continental Breakfast and Welcome

9:15-10:00 *"Unifying the Structure with the Natural Landscape"*

KEITH SIMPSON, MLA (Connecticut College) • SUSAN MAXMAN, FAIA (Morris Arboretum)

This lecture will explore ways that collaborations between architects and landscape professionals, during the design phase, can serve to integrate the structure, the built landscape and the natural world on commercial, public and residential projects. Discussion will also focus on how environmentally sensitive landscape architects and designers can make clients and architectural firms more aware of the value of their early involvement.

10:00-12:00 *"Where Art and Nature Meet: Using Native Plant Communities as a Basis for Design"*

DARREL G. MORRISON, FASLA

In this half-day workshop, Darrel Morrison, one of the most accomplished and influential landscape architects of the 'Natural Design' movement, will discuss, in depth, his techniques for integrating built and natural landscapes. Professor Morrison will focus on the aesthetic and ecological characteristics of native plant communities and how to adapt them to the built landscape on both large and small scale projects. A step-by-step process for designing the natural landscape will be covered including:

- site analysis
- developing mass/space plan delineating wooded and open areas
- 'abstracting' native plant communities as design elements and distributing them appropriately within the site
- preservation of existing vegetation
- substituting native species for frequently-used exotics
- implementation strategy
- management plan guiding change over time.

Symposium participants will have the opportunity to pose questions and discuss their individual landscape projects at the end of this workshop.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:30 **DARREL MORRISON (continued)**

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:45 **Panel Discussion: *"The Prairie Movement and the Eastern Woodland Landscape"***

The 'Prairie Movement' based on the midwestern prairie ecosystem has influenced how many ecologically sensitive landscape designers and architects treat non-forested open space. Although prairie-influenced meadow plantings are an extremely useful solution in many eastern situations, landscapes that recreate and adapt the various woodland plant communities dominant in our area may often be a more appropriate approach. This panel will explore, in an open forum, how to incorporate the ecosystems of the eastern woodland into the designed landscape.

Panel Members:

**DONALD L. WALKER JR. MLA, DR. MARK J. McDONNELL, LARRY WEANER (Connecticut College)
DR. RICHARD LIGHTY, JANE SCOTT, LARRY WEANER (Morris Arboretum)**

3:45-4:30 *"Wildlife in the Landscape: Attracting the Desirable and Discouraging the Destructive"*

PETER M. PICONE (Connecticut College) • DR. JEFFREY KELLER (Morris Arboretum)

The inclusion of wildlife habitat can add a whole new dimension to the enjoyment of the landscape while increasing the biological diversity of our suburban and urban areas. Learn how to create habitats for birds, butterflies and small mammals and how successional changes and surrounding open space affect wildlife species. Also covered will be some current practices used to discourage unwanted wildlife, including deer and geese.

6:00-8:00 Cocktail hour and dinner (optional)

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DAY 2

Connecticut College Arboretum: Sunday, January 16, 1994
Morris Arboretum (at Chestnut Hill College): Wednesday, January 19, 1994

8:30-9:00 Continental Breakfast



"Layers of the Landscape: Three Horticulturists and an Ecologist"

In this group of lectures three horticulturists will illustrate their approaches to selecting and combining plants for a specific layer of the landscape, followed by an ecological overview of how these layers are structured in the natural landscape. By comparing both the horticultural and ecological views we can obtain the tools to create designs that work as both naturally inspired ornamental gardens and viable plant communities.

9:00-10:00 **"Perennials: The Herbaceous Layer"**

FRED MCGOURTY

Fred McGourty, one of today's leading experts in the use of perennial plants, will discuss how to create an inspired and healthy herbaceous layer in the landscape through the artistic combination of foliage and flower and an understanding of each plant's ecological niche. Mr. McGourty will include native and non-native perennials that work well in the naturalistic landscape.

10:00-10:45 **"Grasses: Form and Function"**

KURT BLUEMEL (Connecticut College) • NORM HOOVEN (Morris Arboretum)

Although grasses have become quite popular, they are often incorporated without a sensitivity to their visual or functional role in the natural landscape. This lecture will focus on grasses useful for filling these important roles, from a graceful backbone for the meadow-inspired planting, to a gentle groundcover for the shady woodland garden.

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 **"Woody Plants: Using Native Habitats to Help Guide Your Selection"**

SALLY L. TAYLOR (Connecticut College) • RICK LEWANDOWSKI (Morris Arboretum)

Today's landscapes demand trees and shrubs that are well-adapted and require little maintenance. Knowledge of a plant's native habitat can be invaluable in selecting it for use in the landscape. Learn how to select and combine woody plants adaptable to specialized site conditions to create healthy sustainable landscapes.

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:30 **"Seeing the Forest for the Trees: An Overview of Northeastern Vegetation Ecology"**

DR. WILLIAM A. NIERING

Dr. Niering, highly respected ecologist and educator, will provide an overview of the basic ecological principles needed to design a landscape based on our native plant communities. His presentation will include: recognizing the common plant communities of our area and understanding their composition, determining the original ecosystem of disturbed sites, and selecting the appropriate plant community upon which to base your design.



2:30-3:00 Break

3:00-3:45 **Roundtable Discussion:** An informal and in-depth discussion with the speaker of your choice.

A. **FRED MCGOURTY** - **"Perennials: The Herbaceous Layer - Continued"**

B. **KEN DRUSE** - **"Portfolio Photography"**

C. **DR. WILLIAM A. NIERING** - **"Seeing the Forest for the Trees - Continued"**

3:45-4:30 **Closing Address "Nature and the Residential Garden"**

KEN DRUSE

Mr. Druse, one of the foremost garden writers and photographers in this country, will illustrate, through his spectacular photography and keen sense of garden design, how residential landscapes can express the many moods of nature from a peaceful woodland refuge to a dramatic meadow vista.

SPEAKER PROFILES

- KURT BLUEMEL** is the founder and owner since 1964 of Kurt Bluemel, Inc., an enterprise consisting of landscape design-construction and nursery divisions specializing in ornamental grasses and bamboos for the nursery trade. He was born in Sudetenland, today a part of Czechoslovakia, served apprenticeships in horticulture and landscape design in West Germany and Switzerland and emigrated to the United States in 1960.
- KEN DRUSE** is one of the foremost garden writers and photographers in the country, winning two Quill and Trowel awards from the Garden Writers of America. He authored The Natural Garden and The Natural Shade Garden, and he is gardening editor for House Beautiful.
- NORMAN HOOVEN** is principal and operator of Limerock Ornamental Grasses, Inc. growing a wide range of native and exotic ornamental grasses. Mr. Hooven has been collecting grasses since 1975 when he was involved in a native grass breeding project for strip mine reclamation with Utah State University.
- JEFFREY K. KELLER, PH.D.** received his Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Cornell University. He is founder and principal of Habitat by Design, a company that specializes in the application of ecological principles to the evaluation, management, and design of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems and their associated wildlife populations.
- RICK LEWANDOWSKI** is Director of Horticulture/Curator of the Living Collection, Morris Arboretum. He received his masters degree in horticulture from the University of Maryland. He currently oversees the development and expansion of the Arboretum's living collection, which includes plant exploration and garden design.
- RICHARD W. LIGHTY, PH.D.** is Director of the Mt. Cuba Center for the study of Piedmont Flora. Since 1983 he has directed the Center's development emphasizing the selection, introduction, and display of plants native to the Piedmont region of eastern North America. He is the recipient of many horticultural awards including the Arthur H. Scott Medal of the Scott Arboretum.
- SUSAN A. MAXMAN, FAIA** is Principal of Susan Maxman Architects, Philadelphia, Pa. and current President of the American Institute of Architects. She represented the U.S. architectural profession at the "International Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and has made environmentally sensitive design a major focus through her firm and professional involvements.
- MARK J. McDONNELL, PH.D.** is the Director of the University of Connecticut Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford, CT and an Associate Professor in the U. Conn. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He is a plant ecologist with research interests in old-field succession, forest structure and dynamics, and landscape ecology of urban and suburban environments.
- FREDERICK MCGOURTY** is a designer, lecturer, nurseryman, consultant and writer. He served for fifteen years as editor of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook series, and authored The Perennial Gardener and Perennials: How to Grow, Select and Enjoy. He is co-owner with his wife, Mary Ann, of Hillside Gardens, a nursery in Norfolk, CT.
- DARREL G. MORRISON, FASLA** is a Professor at the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design where he served as Dean from 1983 to 1992, is a frequent lecturer at The Clearing, a school established by Jens Jensen, at Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, and a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects of which he has been a fellow since 1982.
- WILLIAM A. NIERING, PH.D.** is a nationally recognized expert on tidal and freshwater wetlands, vegetation management and the emerging field of restoration ecology. He is the Katherine Blunt Professor of Botany at Connecticut College, where he teaches Human Ecology, Plant Systematics, and Ecology. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Society for Ecological Restoration's journal, Restoration Ecology.
- PETER M. PICONE** is the Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Wildlife Division. An advocate of restoring wildlife habitat through the use of native plant materials, he has recently compiled availability lists for both native trees and shrubs to aid the public in locating Connecticut nurseries which grow and sell native plants.
- JANE SCOTT** is the author of several books including Field and Forest: A Guide to Native Landscapes for Gardeners and Naturalists. She writes a monthly newspaper column called "Woodland Diary."
- KEITH SIMPSON, MLA** is a registered landscape architect in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, and is principal in the firm Keith E. Simpson Associates in New Canaan, CT. He has extensive experience in site planning and design, has worked with notable architects including I.M. Pei, and is a recent past-President of the A.S.L.A., Connecticut Chapter.
- SALLY L. TAYLOR** is a Professor Emeritus of Botany at Connecticut College and Education Coordinator for the Connecticut College Arboretum. An expert on ornamental woody plants, she is the author of the "Garden Guide to Woody Plants" and "Native Shrubs for Landscaping", both Conn. College Arboretum Bulletins.
- DONALD L. WALKER JR., MLA** is Academic Director and a teacher at the Conway School of Landscape Design, which emphasizes sound environmental practices. He is also principal in Conway Design Associates, specializing in residential and commercial projects requiring sensitivity to native plant associations and ecological balance.
- LARRY WEANER** has been the principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design since 1981. He also is the developer of the "New Directions in the American Landscape" symposium series, instructor at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the environmental committee of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.