

Morris Arboretum of the  
University of Pennsylvania  
9414 Meadowbrook Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

# CAPTURING NATURE'S VISUAL PATTERNS IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

**OBSERVATION, ANALYSIS, IMPLEMENTATION**



A Two Day Conference for Landscape Professionals

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# CAPTURING NATURE'S VISUAL PATTERNS in LANDSCAPE DESIGN

## OBSERVATION, ANALYSIS, IMPLEMENTATION

What gives our beautiful and diverse native landscapes their visual character? How do we translate this character into our work? In this two day conference an outstanding group of presenters from the fields of design, art, horticulture and ecology will dissect and explore the underlying patterns and unseen processes found in our regional plant communities and present practical techniques for incorporating these patterns into our work



NJ ASLA CEU's    APLD CEU's

**Co-Sponsored By**

**Morris Arboretum of the  
University of Pennsylvania**  
and the USDA Forest Service



**The Connecticut  
College Arboretum**



**New Directions in the  
American Landscape**

**LOCATIONS AND DATES:**

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY,**  
Villanova, PA  
*Wed. & Thur., January 8 & 9, 1997*

**CONNECTICUT COLLEGE,**  
New London, CT  
*Sat. & Sun., January 11 & 12, 1997*

# CAPTURING NATURE'S VISUAL PATTERNS IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

**Day 1** PA: Wednesday, January 8, 1997; CT: Saturday, January 11, 1997  
Registration and Breakfast: 8:30 AM - Adjourn: 4:30 PM

## OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

### *Noah's Garden: A New View of the Land* SARA STEIN

Ms. Stein, whose seminal books on restoring ecological diversity to the home landscape include the widely acclaimed *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards* and the soon-to-be-published *Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology*, will discuss her experiences over twenty years restoring her Pound Ridge, NY property to a largely self sustaining native landscape rich in wildlife and natural beauty.

### *Seeing the Landscape Through a Painter's Eyes* HENRY DEAN

For a painter to successfully translate a natural landscape to canvas, an intimate understanding of the subtle, underlying elements which define that landscape's visual character is essential. In this lecture, Henry Dean, a nationally recognized landscape painter whose work has been exhibited throughout the United States, will present his observations for use by landscape practitioners.

### *Nature Into Art* C. COLSTON BURRELL

In this lecture the visual characteristics of woods, prairies, old fields and wetlands will be illustrated along with the designed landscapes that they have inspired. The presenter, C. Colston Burrell, is a landscape architect who also holds degrees in horticulture and botany. His long association with native design includes work as the Curator of Native Plant Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum, co-author of *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Perennials* and principal of Native Landscape Design and Restoration, LTD., Minneapolis, Minn.

### *Plant Patterns in the Native Landscape: An Ecologist's Perspective* DR. MARK MCDONNELL

This extensive two hour presentation will contain a specific analysis of plant arrangements in the wild, including woodland, grassland and transitional old field plant communities. Particular emphasis will be placed on the underlying processes that cause these patterns to occur. Dr. McDonnell is Director of the University of Conn., Bartlett Arboretum and Associate Professor of Biology in the University of Conn. Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He is a widely respected plant ecologist who has demonstrated an outstanding ability to communicate useable ecological principles to landscape professionals.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### ***Wisdom from the Nursery Trades: Innovation and Tradition***

A panel of noted growers will share their observations on numerous questions including plant genotypes, survivability of difficult to transplant native trees and innovative plant packaging for native installations.

*In PA:* **JIM PLYLER:** (Natural Landscapes), **JOSEPH ARSENAULT:** (Arrowwood Nursery),  
**WILLIAM D. WELLS:** (W.D. Wells and Associates)

*In CT:* **THOMAS STRANGFELD:** (Weston Nurseries), **MIKE JOHNSON:** (Summer Hill Nursery, Inc.),  
**JOSEPH ARSENAULT:** (Arrowwood Nursery)

### ***In the Field: Resources and Techniques Unique to Natural Design*** **ROBERT SWAIN** and **LARRY WEANER**

Many of the techniques employed to implement natural designs are quite different, and occasionally the opposite of traditional horticultural practices. These methods will be explored through a series of case studies by Robert Swain and Larry Weaner. Mr. Swain is president of The Dawson Corporation, a landscape contracting firm in Clarksburg, NJ specializing in ecological restoration, and past president of the New Jersey Native Plant Society. Mr. Weaner is principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design, Erdenheim, PA and a board member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers where he chairs the Environmental Committee.

### ***Treating the Earth Gently: Excavation, Grading and Drainage*** **JOHN W. DEERING**

Site preparation can have an enormous environmental, functional and aesthetic effect on any landscape project. Mr. Deering's experience as an excavation contractor in New England for over forty years and as developer of the educational series "Earth Management: The Team Concept," make him uniquely qualified to discuss an environmentally sensitive approach to laying the foundation for landscape projects of all sizes.

### ***Adapting Landscape Restoration Techniques to Landscape Design*** **DR. DAVID J. ROBERTSON**

Many of the techniques utilized in the fields of ecological restoration and natural areas management can be adapted to landscape design, opening many new and exciting avenues for practitioners of all sizes. Mr. Robertson is the executive director of the Pennypack Ecological Trust, a 450-acre nature preserve in Southeastern PA encompassing woodlands, grasslands and old fields and has extensive experience in many innovative implementation and management methods.

### ***Mt. Cuba: A True Eastern Woodland Garden*** **DR. RICHARD LIGHTY**

Behind the natural beauty of the world renowned gardens at the The Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora in Greenville, Delaware is a strong ecological foundation. In this presentation Dr. Richard Lighty, award winning horticulturist and scientist, and director of the garden since 1983, will discuss behind-the-scenes techniques that have made Mt. Cuba the most outstanding garden expression of our native eastern woodland.

*"The landscape architect ought to become the great interpreter  
of the native landscape to a generation hungry for the quiet  
of the woodlands, the music of running waters and  
the inspiration of the clean blue sky over head."*

Frank A. Waugh, Landscape Architect  
1869 - 1945