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# critical interactions:



Ecological Research into Landscape Design

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24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

critical interactions: Ecological Research into Landscape Design

To design and manage landscapes successfully is to create symbiotic relationships between people and living systems. While these systems are highly complex, research into their interactions, patterns, and processes is robust. This conference will explore the connections between science and design and the potential for these connections to profoundly alter how we create and manage small and large scale landscapes.

CEUs available for landscape architects, horticulturists, and members of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). Other professions please inquire for details.



# sponsored by

New Directions in the American Landscape (developed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates Inc.)

Connecticut College Arboretum

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

# co-sponsored by

Haverford College Arboretum

PA/DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

# dates and locations

- CT: Connecticut College New London, CT Thursday, January 10 – Friday, January 11, 2013
- PA: Haverford College Haverford, PA Thursday, January 17 – Friday, January 18, 2013

*Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:15 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m.* 

#### THE CANOPIED LANDSCAPE: RESEARCH TO DESIGN

#### Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Coordinating Design and Management of Canopy and Understory Layers (1¼ hrs) Donald Leopold, Ph.D.

Relationships between canopy and understory layers in the woodland setting are often overlooked or little understood. Landscape designers often focus on lower vegetation layers while foresters concentrate on the canopy. To highlight how these efforts can be effectively coordinated, forest biologist Donald Leopold will explore the connections between woodland vegetation layers and ways these relationships can be manipulated to achieve design goals.

# Restoring the Urban Woodland: Wissahickon Valley Park (1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs)

# Rebecca Kagle, Ken LeRoy (CT only), Maura McCarthy, Ph.D. (PA only)

Philadelphia's 1,800-acre wooded Wissahickon Valley Park faces challenges that can derail most restoration efforts, from invasive plants to intensive deer browse and heavy public use. Presenters will discuss recent restoration work in the Park and the strategies used to respond to the challenging realities of woodland restoration, including planting strategies, invasive species control, and trail construction.

– book signing with Donald Leopold (end of lunch break) –

Conversation on the Canopied Landscape: A Panel (3/4 hr) Rebecca Kagle, Donald Leopold, Ph.D., Ken LeRoy (CT only), Maura McCarthy, Ph.D. (PA only). Moderated by Larry Weaner. Previous speakers and conference attendees discuss informed applications of ecological science in woodlands-based design.

#### Skylands: Restoration of a Jens Jensen Landscape (1¼ hrs) Patrick Chassé, ASLA

Although known for his work in the Midwest, the early twentiethcentury landscape architect Jens Jensen completed several projects in the east, including "Skylands" on Mount Desert Island in Maine, former home of Edsel and Eleanor Ford and now owned by Martha Stewart. This presentation highlights Jensen's design approach and the challenges and compromises of bringing this historic landscape back to its natural glory.

#### CLOSING SESSION

## The Biology Behind a Successful Landscape: Wildlife Habitat Structure and Function (1¼ hrs)

#### Matthew Tarr

Creating functional wildlife habitat involves far more than just specifying plants that provide food. Join wildlife ecologist Matthew Tarr as he delves deeply into how wildlife use such factors as plant composition, habitat juxtaposition, and stem structure and density to select habitat. Practical suggestions for how landscape professionals can use this little known information will be included. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:00 a.m. The program begins at 8:30 a.m.

#### THE OPEN LANDSCAPE: RESEARCH TO DESIGN

#### Old Field Succession: A Fifty-Year Study of Change (1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs) Scott Meiners, Ph.D.

Old fields—released agricultural lands—are an important landscape type and yet we rarely have the opportunity to comprehend the intricacies of how these mixed woody and herbaceous environments evolve and the factors influencing their trajectories. Ecologist Scott Meiners will discuss a more than fifty year study that, with data rich in space and time, offers important insights for restoration, design, and management of open landscapes at any scale.

#### Using Local Ecotypes: Practical Issues and Future Considerations for Improved Commercial Availability (1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs) Sara Tangren, Ph.D.

While the use of local plant ecotypes can greatly enhance the longterm viability and ecological contribution of planted landscapes, they can be difficult to procure commercially. Learn about how the production-distribution-use cycle in this specialty crop industry affects your access to regional plant material and what practicalities and policies need to change to improve commercial availability. Audience input will be incorporated.

#### A Native Lawn: Is It Possible? (1¼ hrs) Kristine Boys

Interest in low-mow lawns is increasing, and in 2008-2009, Cornell Plantations installed a demonstration lawn using local native grasses and low growing wildflowers. This presentation will detail that process—from conception through seed collection, site preparation, sowing, and maintenance—and the pitfalls and successes of this new lawn-like landscape.

Designing in the Prairie Spirit: Screening of a Short Film (¼ hr) This twelve-minute film celebrates the remarkable beauty of the American prairie landscape and its influence on the work of renowned landscape architect Darrel Morrison. Unique footage of Morrison's designs as well as early footage from the 1930s planting of the 1,200-acre Curtis Prairie are all featured. We are grateful to the Library of American Landscape History for allowing us to screen this film.

#### Conversation on the Open Landscape: A Panel (3/4 hr) Kristine Boys, Scott Meiners, Ph.D., & Sara Tangren, Ph.D. Moderated by Larry Weaner

The day's previous speakers will discuss in an open forum the practical ramifications of how ecological science can contribute to the success of open landscape plantings.

#### CLOSING SESSION

#### Between Science and Design: Determining the Balance for Constructed Ecosystems (1¼ hr)

Alexander Felson, Ph.D. (CT only), Tim Terway (PA only) Science informs design; design can also inform science. This presentation will explore how basic and applied research can be combined with the design process on actual built urban projects that are both functional and aesthetic. These robust ecological "design experiments," in addition to helping shape urban sustainability, are redefining the future of landscape design and its interface with related fields.

## A 24-YEAR TRADITION

### REGISTRATION

Since the founding of our natural design conference in 1990, we have sought to avoid trendy jargon in favor of landscape techniques that succeed in the real world. Speakers represent an extraordinarily wide range of fields and often provide information rarely found in most landscape programs. The varied experiences of conference attendees, many of whom attend year after year, also enhance our program and offer excellent opportunities for professional interaction. We invite you to join us as we continue to explore our changing landscapes and our changing field.

For more information visit online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS

"Amazed and impressed with the range and depth of speakers. You guys keep coming up with new ones!"

"This has been one of the most stimulating conferences I have attended. The diversity of speakers over the two days, their depth of knowledge and quality of presentation has been phenomenal."

"I just LOVE this symposium!"

- comments from 2012 conference attendees



#### Fees

Due to increases in travel and printing expenses, the 2013 registration fee will rise for the first time in five years. We will continue to strive to make our program as affordable as possible.

#### Fee Per Person

\$305 if registration is received online or postmarked by Dec. 17, 2012. \$330 after Dec. 17, 2012.

#### Student Rate

\$175 if registration is received online or postmarked by Dec. 17, 2012.\$200 after Dec. 17, 2012.

(Students must enclose a copy of student ID with registration and present that ID at the conference.)

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

#### Accommodations

Register before 12/17/12 for discounted rate. For CT: Clarion Inn (860) 442-0631. Mention Landscape Symposium. For PA: The Radnor Hotel, (800) 537-3000. Mention Haverford College Natural Landscape Design Symposium.

#### **CT** Registrations

Phone: (860) 439-5020 Fax: (860) 439-5482 Mail: send completed form and check made payable to Connecticut College Arboretum: Campus Box 5201, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320-4196

#### **PA Registrations**

Online: online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS Phone: (215) 247-5777, ext. 125 Mail: send completed form and check made payable to Morris Arboretum to: Morris Arboretum, Education Department 100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118

#### **Registration Form (for mail-in or fax-in registrations)** *Please print clearly.*

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AMOUNT PAID \$

Registration will be refunded only if notification is received no later than seven working days prior to the event. Kristine Boys has been a professional gardener since 1989. Her gardening career began at the Brandywine Conservancy and Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, where she worked under F.M. Mooberry. Kristine has been managing the Mundy Wildflower Garden at Cornell Plantations for the past thirteen years. She has been a steering committee member of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society since 1998.

**Patrick Chassé**, ASLA, is a landscape architect specializing in historic landcapes, reconstruction of natural plant communities, and design of new gardens from Mt. Desert Island, Maine to Istanbul. Patrick has been researching the life and work of Beatrix Farrand for more than 25 years and was instrumental in saving Farrand's final home and garden. In 2005, Patrick received the first Landscape Design Award from the New England Wildflower Society for his work utilizing native plants in exceptional or distinctive landscape compositions.

Alexander Felson, Ph.D., is an urban ecologist and landscape architect and assistant professor at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. His research and practice focus on integrating knowledge of ecological processes with multifaceted socio-economic, political, and infrastructural factors of the city setting. Dr. Felson is the principal and managing partner of Planetary ONE and has worked for AECOM, Field Operations, and Workshop: Ken Smith Landscape Architect.

**Rebecca Kagle** is a designer with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates. Prior to joining LWLA, she worked for Wave Hill and Prospect Park in New York City and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, designing and implementing woodland and shoreline restoration projects. At LWLA she has been involved with master plans for a variety of residential projects and has written plant and seed specifications for a variety of trail projects in Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley Park. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Temple University.

**Donald Leopold**, Ph.D., is Chair of the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. A former chair of The Nature Conservancy, Central New York Chapter, he has served as editor of the *Natural Areas Journal*, associate editor for the *Journal of Forestry*, and he is currently on the editorial board of the *Northeast Naturalist*. Four of Dr. Leopold's books are major treatments of trees in North America, and his fifth book, *Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation* (2005), is a comprehensive guide to over 700 native plant species.

Ken LeRoy, a practicing Certified Arborist since 1989, is currently on the staff of John B. Ward Tree Experts. He writes, teaches, and speaks regularly on urban forestry issues, including at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Arboretum at Temple University Ambler. He is a former board member of the Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW), and he remains active on FOW committees. **Maura McCarthy**, Ph.D., has served as Executive Director of the Friends of the Wissahickon since 2005. Under her leadership, FOW has undertaken the Sustainable Trails Initiative, a \$10 million project to rebuild 50 miles of natural surface trails in the Wissahickon to mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff and human use on the Park's habitat, waterways, and trails. She is trained as a cultural anthropologist.

**Scott Meiners**, Ph.D., is a plant ecologist and professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Eastern Illinois University. His work explores tree regeneration, invasion ecology, the ecological consequences of forest fragmentation, and factors influencing the dynamics and regeneration of plant communities. He currently oversees the Buell-Small Succession Study, the longest continuous study of successional dynamics. This study is located in the Piedmont region of New Jersey in a site managed by Rutgers University.

**Sara Tangren**, Ph.D., has been involved in the native plant industry since 1999, when she started the first native seed production company in Maryland. She works with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank and the University of Maryland Arboretum and Botanical Garden to evaluate production, marketing, and consumer issues inhibiting the region's native plant industry. She has also conducted restoration and conservation work with the Anacostia Watershed Society, PEPCO, and the University of Maryland Arboretum and Botanical Garden and spearheaded native gardens and meadows for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Vice President's Mansion, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Matthew Tarr, a forester and professional wildlife biologist, is a Wildlife Specialist and Associate Extension Professor for the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. He has over fifteen years of experience helping communities, professionals, and private landowners assess and manage wildlife habitats on public and private land.

**Tim Terway** is a doctoral candidate at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. As a member of the Urban Ecology and Design Lab, his research focuses on knowledge integration in urban environmental problem-solving and the role of design as the field of ecology shifts from studying to actively shaping urban environments. His current work examines these issues in towns along Long Island Sound grappling with coastal adaptation planning in response to climate change. Prior to Yale, Tim practiced as a city planner and landscape and urban designer internationally and domestically.

**Larry Weaner** has been creating native landscapes since 1977. He founded Larry Weaner Landscape Associates in 1982 and has gained a national reputation for combining ecological restoration with the traditions of garden design. In 2008 he was awarded the top three design awards by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. He is an active guest lecturer and instructor for horticultural and environmental organizations throughout the U.S. In 1990 Larry developed the *New Directions in the American Landscape* conference series.