

Morris Arboretum Education Dept.  
100 E. Northwestern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

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29<sup>th</sup> New Directions in the American Landscape  
(NDAL) Symposium  
Ecological Complexity in Landscapes for People



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(NDAL) Symposium  
Ecological Complexity in Landscapes for People

**Our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium** explores a core challenge of contemporary landscape design: blending plants, wildlife, and people in spaces that advance ecological function and are enjoyable to be in. While the destination is clear, the route is complex and often ill-defined or nonexistent. Learn from real world experiences of a select group of landscape architects and designers who are successfully navigating this challenge.

**January 11–12, 2018**

**January 18–19, 2018**

**PA:** Science Center Auditorium  
Montgomery County  
Community College  
Blue Bell, PA

**CT:** Cummings Arts Center  
Connecticut College  
Arboretum  
New London, CT

Sponsored By:



**Connecticut  
College  
Arboretum**

**NDAL**

New Directions in the American Landscape  
Developed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

# Day 1 – Plant Community Based Design – *the Ecology*



## Registration and Continental Breakfast - 8:15am

### Rediscovering a Lost Landscape: The (Re)Construction of a Piedmont Prairie (1¼ hrs.) – Stefan Bloodworth

The southeastern Piedmont prairie sadly now exists only as scattered remnants. Learn how a team at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens designed and constructed a one-acre simulation, how they produced more than 16,000 plants representing almost 100 species grown using locally collected seed, and what they're learning from subsequent monitoring.

### A Model for Botanic Gardens: Celebrating Local Plant Communities (1 hr.) – Gregg Tepper

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the new Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek, a place-based garden celebrating the plant communities of the Delmarva coastal plain. From its 12-acre habitat-based woodland garden to its Piet Oudolf-designed meadow, the gardens seek to delight and educate visitors and inspire them to preserve Delmarva's native landscapes.

### Overlooked Aspects of Plant Community Based Design (1 hr.) – Heidi Natura

Using case studies from diverse projects, this session explores important but seldom-considered aspects of designing with native plants based on community models. Learn how attention to root morphology, species layering, and species competitiveness, as well as aesthetics, can maximize design outcomes and long-term performance.

### Management, Not Maintenance: a Panel (¾ hr.) – Stefan Bloodworth, Heidi Natura, Gregg Tepper, and Larry Weaner

In plant community-based designs, we don't maintain static plant compositions—we manage evolving living systems. How should our designs anticipate that approach and how is this best communicated to clients and contractors? Discuss these and other key issues with panelists.

### Pioneering Higher Ground: Designing Native Rooftop Plantings (1 hr.) – Laura Hansplant

Why do volunteer native species sometimes colonize green roofs while plantings of those same species often fail? This session demonstrates alternative design approaches based on study of native plant community dynamics in comparable thin-soil environments and extensive tracking of plant performance at pilot green roof projects.

### OLIN Experiments with New Tools for Integrating Plant Ecology into Planting Design and Documentation (1 hr.)

– Yuan Fan, Chris Landau, and Judy Venonsky

Ecology is complex, and accounting for the variables in planting design can be tricky. To translate this complexity into executable planting designs, the landscape architecture firm OLIN is experimenting with modeling software and other tools. Learn how use of data, analysis, parametric modeling, agent-based modeling, and visualization combined with current ecological knowledge can achieve a more intuitive approach to design.

*Evening reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Book signing with Larry Weaner.*

## Fees

### Fees (per person):

\$340 if received online or postmarked by Dec. 15, 2017  
\$365 if received online or postmarked after Dec. 15, 2017

### Student Rate (with student ID):

\$195 if received online or postmarked by Dec. 15, 2017  
\$220 if received online or postmarked after Dec. 15, 2017

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

### Pennsylvania Registrations:

Secure online registration: [online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS](http://online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS) or by phone at: (215) 247-5777 x125.

Mail: send completed form and check payable to Morris Arboretum to:

Morris Arboretum, Education Department  
100 E. Northwestern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

**Montgomery County Community College is not affiliated with the event and should not be contacted regarding the program.**

### Pennsylvania Accommodations:

Normandy Farm Hotel - visit [normandyfarm.com](http://normandyfarm.com) and enter code LDS111, or call (215) 616-8500 and reference Landscape Design Symposium for discounted rate by Dec. 20.

### Connecticut Registrations:

Secure online registration: by phone at: (860) 439-5020 or [conncoll.edu/the-arboretum](http://conncoll.edu/the-arboretum)

Mail: send completed form and check payable to Connecticut College to:

Connecticut College Arboretum  
Campus Box 5201, 270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320-4196

### Connecticut Accommodations:

Holiday Inn, New London, (860) 443-7000. Mention Landscape Design Symposium for discounted rate by Dec. 31.

## Day 2 – Plant Community Based Design – *the Experience*

### Drawing from the Experiential Qualities of Wild Landscapes (1 hr.) – *Toby Wolf*

Naturally occurring landscapes can offer inspiration that goes beyond their structure and species composition. Landscape architect Toby Wolf demonstrates how the experiential qualities of wild places can be translated into designed landscapes—urban or suburban, large or small, planted or paved—that feel authentic, immediate, and alive.

### Managing Expectations in a Changing Landscape (1 hr.) – *John Magee*

The advent of more ‘naturalistic’ plantings requires clients, contractors, and designers understand how that vision is implemented and how it evolves over time. Learn how client and contractor expectations were managed on native design projects where effective communication played a significant role.

### Big Ecology in Small Landscapes: a Panel (¾ hr.) – *John Magee, Larry Weaner, and Toby Wolf*

Many designers work primarily at small residences. How do we distill larger ecological patterns and processes to this scale and what lessons might this have for projects at larger scales? Explore these and other questions with panelists.

### Design Adaptations for Today’s Realities: Lessons from the Southern Highlands Reserve (1 hr.) – *Kelly Holdbrooks*

How do you maintain a design’s original vision while dealing with issues not anticipated in the original plan? When do you consider altering the design? See how North Carolina’s Southern Highlands Reserve, a native plant arboretum and research center with gardens designed by W. Gary Smith, is using creative, adaptive solutions to address water mitigation and other climate-change related challenges.



### Designing Productive Landscapes: Agriculture and Ecology (1 hr.) – *Phoebe Lickwar*

From fruit orchards to vegetable gardens to gentleman farms, food production has a long, rich history in landscape design. Using contemporary examples, landscape architect Phoebe Lickwar discusses the benefits and dilemmas of engaging agricultural productivity as a design strategy. Her presentation features diverse case studies showing how crop agriculture can be creatively combined with ecological restoration and clients’ aesthetic and functional expectations.

### Hybrid Vigor: Art x Design x Ecology (1¼ hrs.) – *David Buckley Borden*

Our biggest environmental challenge is not rooted in ecology, but in culture. Without a shared ecological awareness, sustainable, environmentally-sensitive practice remains out of reach. This session presents work by an interdisciplinary artist and designer who is using unique landscape-based projects to communicate ecology through accessible, often humorous hybrids of science, art, and design.

## Mail-in Registration Form

*Please print clearly:*

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

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

Title \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not include me on the list of attendees.

Check one:  Early Bird Regular Rate \$340  Regular Rate \$365  
 Early Bird Student Rate \$195  Student Rate \$220

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

Vegetarian lunch  Vegan lunch  
 Meat lunch  Gluten free lunch

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

***Registration will be refunded only if notification is received no later than seven (7) working days prior to the event less a \$15 processing fee.***

# Speakers

## A 29-Year Tradition

Since its founding in 1990, the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) conference has avoided trendy, ill-defined jargon in favor of landscape techniques that succeed in the real world. Our presenters have included icons of landscape design and related fields as well as ‘under the radar’ practitioners whose innovative work has gone largely unnoticed. We are particularly proud of the intellectual depth of our conference attendees, many of whom attend year after year, and whose questions, feedback, and informal conversations significantly enhance the quality of our programs.

**Stefan Bloodworth** has been the Curator of the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at Duke University since 2002. He lectures on southeastern plant communities and is the owner of the design-build company Pine Hollow Landscapes.

**David Buckley Borden** is an interdisciplinary artist and designer whose work ranges from site-specific landscape installations in the woods to data-driven cartography in the gallery. He is the Charles Bullard Fellow in Forest Research at Harvard University. He previously worked at Sasaki Associates and the design firm Ground, Inc. after receiving a Master’s in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.

**Yuan Fan** is a landscape architect at OLIN where she has been developing new tools for the firm’s TECH LAB and researching ways to integrate technology and living systems for their Eco LAB. Yuan earned her Master’s in Landscape Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Laura Hansplant** is the Director of Design at Roofmeadow. She previously worked at Andropogon Associates where she was involved with such projects as Sidwell Friends Middle School and the Phipps Conservatory’s Center of Sustainable Landscapes. She has developed workshops on planting design, sustainable planning, and the SITES rating system. She received her Master’s in Landscape Architecture from Pennsylvania State University.

**Kelly Holdbrooks** is the Executive Director of the Southern Highlands Reserve, a native plant arboretum and research center in Lake Toxaway, North Carolina. She has over a decade of experience in the horticultural field. She received a Master’s in Landscape Architecture from the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia.

**Chris Landau** is an artist, designer, and technologist with expertise in 3D modeling, visualization, and animation. He joined OLIN ten years ago and leads the firm’s TECH LAB, doing research, developing software, and training designers. He holds a BFA in printmaking from the Cleveland Institute of Art and an MFA in interdisciplinary art and design from the University of Michigan.

**Phoebe Lickwar** is the founding Principal of FORGE Landscape Architecture and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. She was the 2016 Designer-in-Residence at the University of Oregon’s Fuller Center for Productive Landscapes, and her forthcoming book *Farmscape: The Design of Productive Landscapes* examines the integration of agriculture and landscape architecture throughout history.

**John Magee** has been designing and building landscapes in the Washington, DC metro region and beyond for the past 25 years. He owns and operates Magee Design based in Middleburg, VA and co-hosts the popular Native Plant Podcast.

**Heidi Natura** has been a practicing landscape architect for almost thirty years. She founded the design firm Living Habitats, based in Chicago, in 2001.

**Gregg Tepper** is the Director of Horticulture at the new Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek. He previously served as Horticulturist, Woods Path Horticulturist, and Director of Horticulture at the Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, Delaware. He studied horticulture at the University of Delaware and went on to start his own business designing and managing private gardens.

**Judy Venonsky** is a landscape architect with OLIN, where she has worked since 2007. She has more than 15 years of academic and professional experience in landscape design. She spearheads Living Systems Design research and practice at OLIN, working closely with horticultural academics and professionals to marry design excellence with ecology.

**Toby Wolf** is the owner of Wolf Landscape Architecture in Groton, MA. His current work includes projects at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Boston’s Rose Kennedy Greenway, Prudential Center, and Public Garden as well as home landscapes of all sizes. His design for the Bioswale Garden at Cornell Botanic Gardens received an Honor Award from the Society for College and University Planning. Toby serves as Vice President of the Ecological Landscape Alliance.

## Comments from 2017 Conference Attendees:

*“One of the best combinations of quality speakers ever.”*

*“This conference is the highlight of my winter.”*

*“Completely recharges all my enthusiasm and passion.”*

