Expressing Nature and Culture In the Designed Landscape

11TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
New Directions in the American Landscape

A two day, in-depth examination of the state of the art of ecological landscape design, presenting a diverse and accomplished group of designers, horticulturists, scientists, and artists in an interactive and informal setting.

ASLA and APLD CEU’s Available

Co-Sponsored By
The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

The Connecticut College Arboretum

New Directions in the American Landscape of Larry Weaver
Landscape Design

Locations and Dates
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
New London, CT
Day 1: Jan. 11, 2001
Day 2: Jan. 12, 2001

Arboretum Villanova
Villanova, PA
Day 1: Jan. 17, 2001
Day 2: Jan. 18, 2001
Ecological Landscape Design: Public and Private (2 hrs.)
Edward L. Blake Jr., ASLA
Former Executive Director of the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Mississippi, Mr. Blake was instrumental in the design, implementation, and development of one of the premier ecologically based arboreta in the United States. He will discuss how native plant communities and historic land use patterns were used to form the foundation for the arboretum’s design. He also will present a number of smaller scale projects, designed by the Landscape Studio, his current firm, which have used similar principles.

What Wants to Grow Here? Selecting Plants Through ‘Predictive Habitat Analysis’ (2 hrs.)
Rick Mellon
Matching plants that are highly adapted to each site is crucial to the success of ecologically based landscape design. Often landscape practitioners work in highly developed areas, where plant communities have been disturbed or destroyed, and must look for other clues to help guide them in the plant selection process. Mr. Mellon will discuss methods of analyzing the physical characteristics of the landscape, including geology, hydrology, soils and, topography to predict which species, through planting or natural recruitment, will have the ability to successfully colonize a landscape site.

Creating a Story: Barns, Farmyards and Agricultural Landscapes (3/4 hr.)
Eric J. Endersby/Alex Greenwood
As principals of The New Jersey Barn Company, a design/build firm engaged in the construction and restoration of historic barns and farmhouses, Mr. Endersby and Mr. Greenwood have given extensive consideration to the agricultural and pastoral landscape. They will illustrate how their structures and farmstead layouts are frequently designed around a “historic story,” both real and created. This approach can be adapted easily by landscape designers working in historic or natural contexts.

Native American Gardening Practices (3/4 hr.)
Marshall Becker
Who invented ecological gardens? No one can answer that question, but Native Americans certainly cultivated plants in a sustainable manner long before the emergence of the native plant movements of the twentieth century. Anthropologist Marshall Becker will discuss what we know about how Native Americans created gardens and managed wild plant populations. While these techniques are not likely to overtake the ‘New American Garden’ anytime soon, appropriate elements can certainly be incorporated into the contemporary natural garden.

Cocktail Hour

SPEAKER PROFILES

Marshall Becker is a Professor of Anthropology at West Chester University where he has done extensive research on the history of the Lenape and other Native American peoples of the mid-Atlantic states. His work has been published in numerous scientific journals including Physical Anthropology, Archaeology, and Cultural Anthropology. His work on Mayan sites has led to the publication of a book on Mesoamerican Archaeology. He served for years as a traveling lecturer for the Archeological Institute of America.

Edward L. Blake ASLA is principal of The Landscape Studio in Hattiesburg, MS, a regionally oriented landscape architecture practice. He is the former Executive Director of the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS and has taught at the University of Mississippi and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He has been the recipient of numerous awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects including the Alfred B. LoGass Medal and the Honor Award for excellence in the design and planning of Pinecote at the Crosby Arboretum.

Eric J. Endersby is co-founder of the New Jersey Barn Company, holds a degree in Fine Arts/Architecture and has completed course work in American folk studies and historic preservation at the graduate level. He also founded the Princeton History Project and initiated its award winning monthly journal The Princeton Recollector, as well as co-authored Barn: The Art of a Working Building.

Alex Greenwood is co-founder of the New Jersey Barn Company and has supervised the company’s barn projects, as well as the disassembly and re-erection of a number of early timber frame houses and a Greek Revival Church. He is the co-author of Barn: The Art of a Working Building which traces the history of barns from the Middle Ages to the present.

Rick Mellon is principal of Mellon Biological Services, and has been studying native habitats since the early 1960's when he joined the staff of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. He has worked as a native plant ecological consultant to the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and has provided ecological expertise for numerous clients, both public and private. Mr. Mellon has compiled a database of physical habitat characteristics of over 1300 sites in the mid-Atlantic region and is currently preparing a paper on the Predictive Habitat Analysis and Classification System.
The Heart of the Place: Drawing from Nature, Culture, and Art (1.5 hrs.)
Patrick Chassé

As a nationally recognized landscape architect practicing in New England, Mr. Chassé utilizes a highly sophisticated artistic sense to blend naturalistic and historic elements into his landscapes. He is an outstanding lecturer and possesses a unique ability to get behind the photography, and shed light on the creative process and artistic rationale influencing his unique landscape style.

Grasslands and Meadows: Lessons from Landscape Ecology (1 hr.)
Robert A. Askins

The eastern grassland/meadow, as a long term and wide ranging habitat, is largely the product of the agricultural era, and consequently is a fairly recent occurrence. It is an example of a desirable ecological community resulting directly from a specific land use practice, and raises a host of interesting questions regarding the interaction between culture and nature. Zoologist and author, Robert A. Askins, will explore this issue and discuss the role that grasslands and meadows can play in the modern landscape.

Cracking a Tough Nut: Nature and the Culture of Suburbia (1 hr.)
Larry Weaner, Patrick Chassé and Robert A. Askins

In this panel discussion and open forum we will explore the potential for making ecological inroads in areas of dense suburban development. Topics will include site design alternatives, blending natural plantings with surrounding traditional landscapes, landscape retrofitting, and marketing approaches.

Modern and Historic Artifacts: Expressions of Culture in the Natural Garden (1.5 hrs.)
Rick Darke

Mr. Darke, horticulturist, naturalist, art historian, writer, and photographer will present an expansive view of the use of found cultural objects, both historic and contemporary, in the natural landscape garden. His innovative, and at times provocative, ideas will be sure to stimulate discussion and generate a host of new ideas for inquisitive and progressive practitioners.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Robert A. Askins is an animal ecologist, ornithologist and Professor of Zoology at Connecticut College, New London Connecticut. He has been a visiting professor and scholar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. He is the author of Restoring North America’s Birds, Yale University Press and has published numerous papers and articles worldwide.

Patrick Chassé is a landscape architect and maintains an active design practice with offices in Maine and Massachusetts, specializing in historic landscapes, reconstruction of natural plant communities, and design of new gardens. In addition to works published in Garden Design, House and Garden, Architectural Digest, and Gardens Illustrated, he is one of ten international landscape designers profiled in Poge Dickey’s book, Breaking Ground. Current projects include work on historic gardens by Jens Jensen and Frederick Law Olmstead.

Rick Darke is a widely published author, photographer, lecturer, and landscape design consultant, specializing in native plants and regional landscapes of North America. He formerly served as Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Sq., PA and received the American Horticulture Society, Scientific Award in 1998. He has authored a number of books including the Royal Horticultural Society’s Manual of Grasses, and the Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses.

Larry Weaner is principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design, Erdenheim, PA, and is currently working on natural design and native restoration projects throughout the eastern U.S. He developed the ‘New Directions in the American Landscape’ conference series, lectures frequently throughout the country, and has authored a number of articles for professional publications. He serves on the Board of Directors and is Environmental Chair of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.
A Note from the Organizers

Throughout the history of our symposium we have presented programs relating to landscape design, ecological restoration, and the very interesting areas that fall between. We are proud of these programs and of the high caliber of landscape professionals who have attended.

Our goal repeatedly has been to insure that an already knowledgeable conference participant will leave with a substantial amount of new and useful information.

"You have made a great contribution to the field through your conferences"
Leslie Sauer, Principal, Andropogon Associates

Here is how we have pursued our goal:

Programs organized as a cohesive curriculum.
Speakers with high levels of expertise and ample time to cover their topic.
Emphasis on innovative practices, both new and re-discovered
Multi-disciplinary presenters, including designers, horticulturists, artists, ecologists, botanists, and historians.
Opportunities for a lively exchange of ideas between participants.

Participants Comments

"Highly relevant, I look forward to next years conference"
"Inspiring combination of art and science"
"A great symposium, one I will be attending every year"