Plants, People and Time: Creating a Place

12TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
New Directions in the American Landscape

ASLA and APLD CEU's Available

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A two-day, in-depth conference examining the expression of nature and culture in the art of landscape design.

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 Weaner Landscape Design

Locations and Dates
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
New London, CT
Day 1: Thursday, Jan. 10, 2002
Day 2: Friday, Jan. 11, 2002

Arboretum Villanova
Villanova, PA
Day 1: Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2002
Day 2: Thursday, Jan. 17, 2002
Your Native Plant Communities: A Regional Overview (1 hr.)

PA only: Jean Fike  CT only: Patricia Swain

Through the selection and arrangement of plants according to habitat types and species associations, designed landscapes can functionally and visually reflect the regions in which they occur. In each conference location, a leading ecologist will outline the composition of commonly occurring plant communities of the region, for use as design models by landscape practitioners.

Field to Forest: Understanding the Process (1 hr. 30 min.)

Tom Wessels

The ability to understand and identify the various routes by which cleared land reverts to forest can be enormously useful in land planning, ecological restoration and garden design. Mr. Wessels will use illustrated examples of specific forest sites to examine, in a fascinating detective-like style, how plant succession and cultural activity interact to form a diverse array of landscape compositions.

Capturing the Visual Essence of the Forest (1 hr.)

Brian Cohen

The elements that give a place its particular magic are not always obvious. In this presentation, Brian Cohen, creator of the subtle and beautiful etchings in Reading the Forested Landscape by Tom Wessels, will dissect and analyze the elements that give a forest scene its visual and experiential character, assisting landscape designers in the creation and enhancement of these places.

Field to Forest: Using the Process (1 hr. 30 min.)

Rick Lewandowski

Beyond the woodland wildflowers, for which the world-renowned gardens at Mt. Cuba are most noted, is a remarkable example of a created forest. Beginning with an open field, Mrs. du Pont-Copeland, owner and developer of the garden, and her associates achieved a mature woodland garden, from cathedral-like canopy trees to a lush and diverse understory. Garden Director, Rick Lewandowski, will reach into Mt. Cuba's historic photographic file to illustrate this outstanding example of high design and natural succession.

A Horticulturist in the Wild: Notable Native Plants (1 hr.)

Homer Elliott

Presenting an array of indigenous species, selections and cultivars; from diminutive rarities for the refined garden, to native riffians for colonizing large areas.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Brian Cohen is a printmaker, artist and teacher. He is principal of Bridge Press, publisher of fine edition letterpress books, and his etchings and books are in the collections of numerous institutions including Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Stanford University and the Portland Museum of Art. He also contributed the artwork for Reading the Forested Landscape by Tom Wessels.

Homer Elliott, II is Staff Horticulturist and Adjunct Instructor teaching courses in botany and field ecology at Temple University, Ambler Campus. Mr. Elliott is responsible for several native plant gardens on the Ambler campus including a sustainable wetland. He also manages the native plant propagation center for the University and has an extensive knowledge of the flora of the mid-Atlantic states.

Jean Fike is currently employed by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as the Department's plant ecologist, also serving as coordinator of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory and Acting Chief of the Ecological Services Section of the Bureau of Forestry. She authored the Terrestrial and Palustrine Plant Communities of Pennsylvania, the only plant community-based flora currently available in the state.

Rick Lewandowski is currently the Director of the Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora, one of the world's premier woodland gardens. He was formerly the Director of Horticulture/Curator of the Living Collection at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Patricia Swain currently works with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as plant community ecologist. She has been involved as the senior author of the draft "Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts," which is currently being revised. For over ten years she has taught classes on plant communities of the New England region at the New England Wildflower Society.

Tom Wessels is an ecologist, and author of Reading the Forested Landscape. He currently is the Associate Chair of the Environmental Studies Department at Antioch New England Graduate School, where he directs the Environmental Biology Program.
Managing Stormwater Gracefully: Planted Solutions for Reducing Runoff (1 hr. 15 min.)
Jean Killhour Akers, RLA
This presentation examines landscape techniques for stormwater treatment that use the natural hydrologic characteristics and native plant communities of our indigenous wetlands. Ms. Akers will focus on large and small-scale stormwater landscapes. Her background in both landscape architecture and horticulture, have led her to use unique vegetation-based design solutions for stormwater management.

Species Distribution in the Wild: The Human Factor (1 hr. 15 min.)
Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler
Landscape practitioners often work on sites where development and other disturbances have dramatically altered plant communities and physiographic conditions. Many native plants grow in successional habitats dependent on disturbance, and can provide valuable ideas for establishing plants on difficult sites. Dr. Schuyler will illustrate examples of these species, some rare and growing in surprising places, to illustrate that human activities and healthy vegetation establishment need not be mutually exclusive.

Planning for the Unplanned: Natural Succession in the Designed Landscape (1 hr. 15 min.)
Larry Weaner
This presentation will explore gardens that have been planned and managed to incorporate natural processes of change. A variety of landscape settings and scales will be used to illustrate strategies for the encouragement of natural seedling recruitment, and the unfolding over time of changing plant compositions.

The Landscapes of Roberto Burle Marx: Integrating Nature, Culture and Art (1 hr. 15 min.)
Conrad Hamerman, ASLA
In this presentation, the work of the one the world’s great visionary landscape architects will be explored by Conrad Hamerman, a close associate and friend to Burle Marx. Mr. Hamerman will present a two-part lecture starting with the historical context of Burle Marx’s life and ending with a review of Burle Marx’s master works. Also included will be examples of the adaptation of Burle Marx’s design principles to North American landscapes.

Why Do We Landscape? A Panel Discussion (1 hr.)
Jean Killhour Akers, RLA, Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler, Conrad Hamerman, ASLA
Why do we landscape? A seemingly a vague and innocuous question, yet a trip back to the basics may lead us to surprising answers, affecting our practices in very concrete and specific ways.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Conrad Hamerman, ASLA is a Philadelphia-based landscape architect who worked with Roberto Burle Marx as a friend and associate for thirty years. Hamerman was trained in horticulture in Brazil and graduated with a degree in land planning from Cornell University. He coordinated programs and taught at the University of Delaware for ten years, has studied the history of Western garden tradition on a grant from the Italian government and a Fulbright Scholarship, and has lectured at institutions throughout the world.

Jean Killhour Akers, RLA is currently a senior project manager with the firm of Simone, Jaffe, and Collins in Penwyn, PA and has worked in the fields of landscape architecture, urban forestry and horticulture since 1975. She has specific expertise in stormwater landscapes where her horticultural background often leads her to the integration of vegetative approaches.

Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler was Associate Curator and Acting Chairman of Botany until 2000 at the Academy of Natural Sciences where he is currently Curator Emeritus. As a premier botanist he has published extensively and had associations with numerous institutions and botanical societies. He received the Science Award in 1991 from the Nature Conservancy for outstanding service to conservation.

Larry Weaner is principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design, Flourtown, PA and is currently working on natural design projects throughout the Eastern U.S. He developed the ‘New Directions in the American Landscape’ conference series, and is a past Board of Directors Member and Environmental Chair of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.
A Note from the Organizers

Throughout the 12 year history of our symposium, we have presented programs relating to landscape design, ecological restoration, and those interesting areas that lie in-between. We are proud of these programs and of the high caliber of landscape professionals who have participated.

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

We achieve this goal by:

- 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, ecologists, botanists, anthropologists, historians, and artists.
- Opportunities for a lively exchange of ideas between participants.

"I have been in the landscaping industry for the past 15 years and have rarely been so excited and inspired by a conference or seminar"

Lauren Wheeler, 2001 conference participant