Linking Parallel Worlds: Landscape Design and the Study of Ecological and Cultural Landscapes

15TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
New Directions in the American Landscape

CEU's available for Landscape Architects and Designers

Landscape designers, agriculturists and ecologists are like parallel lines that never meet. All work with land and plants, but share little information on their respective techniques. This program will examine the ongoing development of each discipline, historic and contemporary, with an emphasis on relevant applications for landscape architects and designers.

Sponsored By:
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
Connecticut College Arboretum
New Directions in the American Landscape of Larry Weaver Landscape Design

Co-Sponsored By:
PA/DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Arboretum Villanova
Villanova University

LOCATIONS AND DATES
PA: Arboretum Villanova
Villanova, PA
Day 1: Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2005
Day 2: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2005

CT: Connecticut College
New London, CT
Day 1: Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005
Day 2: Friday, Jan. 14, 2005
Ecological Science Part 1
A Study in Landscape Manipulation:
The Life's Work of Dr. Frank Egler (1.25 hr)
Glenn Dreyer
The spectacular mosaic of clonal shrubs, ferns, grasses and rare plants that resulted from over 60 years of landscape manipulation by Dr. Egler at his Connecticut property, Aton Forest, appears completely natural, but is in fact highly manipulated. Mr. Dreyer will discuss Dr. Egler’s contributions to ecology and naturalistic landscaping, contrasting current images with archival photographs of this fascinating property. (A videotaped landscape walkthrough by Dr. Egler, filmed in his latter years, will run continuously throughout the conference)

Ecological Science Part 2
Landscape Manipulation and Contemporary Garden Design (1.25 hr)
Larry Weaner
As illustrated in the previous lecture about Dr. Egler, beautiful landscapes can be created through the manipulation of naturally recruited plants. This presentation will extend this concept into the realm of landscape design, with examples ranging from public and estate properties, to the intimate residential scale.

Ecological Science Part 3
Natural Processes and Invasive Plant Control (1 hr)
Bernd Blossey, PhD
Dr. Blossey will present his unique research on the control of invasive plants through biological means, as well as management techniques for their eventual replacement with native communities.

Cultural Landscapes Part 1
The Arts and Crafts Landscape of Gustave Stickley (1 hr)
Phillip Larsen, RLA
The New Jersey estate of Gustave Stickley, founder of the Arts and Crafts movement, was an early example of function, aesthetics and self sufficiency. Mr. Larsen, author of a landscape study of the Stickley estate, will illustrate the principles that underlie this unique property.

Cultural Landscapes Part 2
Reflecting on Two Decades of Practice:
Cultural Landscapes, Historic Preservation and Sustainability Today (1.5 hrs)
Charles Birnbaum, FASLA
This lecture will focus on the interface between historic restoration, cultural landscapes and the movement towards holistic stewardship. Placing a value on antiquity and "weathering" of the landscape, limiting carrying capacity for certain landscapes, and the recognition of a cultural landscape's historic layers will all be explored.

Social Hour: Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres

Cultural Landscapes Part 3
Unintentional Beauty: The Historic Farmstead (1 hr)
Peter Benes
Landscape practitioners expend great effort expressing beauty in their work, while farmers, with little or no thought to aesthetics, have covered the land with exquisite landscapes for hundreds of years. Mr. Benes will analyze the characteristics that define the northeastern farmstead through the finely detailed work of selected historic landscape painters.

Landscape Design: Expanding the Parameters Part 1
Direct Seeding in the Landscape:
Meadows and Beyond (1.25 hr)
Mark Gormel
Native design proponents have long advocated lawn reduction. For this to be viable however, techniques for the direct seeding of native ground layer plants needs to be developed. In this presentation, Mr. Gormel will draw from his extensive experience with native seeds, to explore some promising plants and techniques for establishing lawn alternatives.

Landscape Design: Expanding the Parameters Part 2
The Art of Trail Making (1.25 hr)
Peter S. Jensen
Mr. Jensen will examine the design and construction of pedestrian trails from the late 19th century to the present. Information presented will include manual and mechanized construction techniques as well as ways to create the dramatic "sequence of events" that a well designed trail can provide.

Landscape Design: Expanding the Parameters Part 3
Putting the Art in Nature and the Nature in Art:
The Work of Frank A. Waugh (1.25 hr)
Annaliise Bischoff
Landscape Architect Frank A. Waugh (1869-1943) founded the "Department of Landscape Gardening" in 1903 at what is now the University of Massachusetts. An early advocate of natural design, his work was shaped through study of landscape painting, and a sophisticated understanding of native plants. Ms. Bischoff, who has spent the last two years cataloguing his archives, will present his innovative work.

Landscape Design: Expanding the Parameters Part 4
Forest Fragments:
Restoration and Aesthetics (1.25 hr)
Jack Ahern, FASLA
Continuing in the Waugh tradition, Mr. Ahern brings an ecological bent to the University of Massachusetts, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. His presentation will analyze small forest fragments in urban and suburban settings, showing how to weave biodiversity, hydrological function and aesthetics into the restoration of these valuable landscapes.
SPEAKER PROFILES

Jack Ahern, FASLA is head of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Massachusetts and is author of Greenways as Strategic Landscape Planning, and Theory and Application: A Guide to the Landscape Architecture of Boston. He recently served as national chair of the U.S. Division of the International Association for Landscape Ecology.

Peter Benes is Co-Founder and Director of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, an annual conference and exhibition series published by Boston University. He is author of New England Prospect: An Exhibition of Maps and Meetinghouse and Church, 1630-1850, as well as numerous other studies of the American Northeast.

Charles Birnbaum, FASLA is the coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative, which was awarded the ASLA President’s Award in 1996. He is author/co-author of Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture I and II and Pioneers of American Landscape Design. Most recently, Charles was awarded the Rome Prize in Historic Preservation.

Annalieuse Bischoff is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Associate Director of the University Writing Program at the University of Massachusetts. She was President of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture and the Design Communication Association, and organized an exhibit entitled “Landscape Links: A look at the etchings of Frank A. Waugh” at the University of Massachusetts.

Bernd Blossey, PhD is an ecologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. He also directs the Ecology and Management of Invasive Plants Program, which studies the impact of invasive plants on native organisms, and develops biological weed control programs.

Glenn Dreyer is by training a hybrid horticulturist/ecologist. He is Director of the Connecticut College Arboretum, the Executive Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Botany at Connecticut College. He is also President of Aton Forest, Inc. an 1100-acre research area founded by ecologist Frank E. Egler.

Mark Gormel is the Horticultural Coordinator for the Brandywine Conservancy where he is responsible for the horticulture program, collection and sales of native plant seeds, and native plant propagation. He is also an accomplished photographer whose work has appeared in numerous publications including The Nature Conservancy and Berks County Living magazines.

Peter S. Jensen is a trail designer/builder who also runs a workshop on the art of trail making at the Conway Graduate School of Design in central Massachusetts. He was the Appalachian Trail Conference’s representative to the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Outdoor Developed Areas between 1997 and 1999.

Phillip Larsen, RLA has been practicing landscape architecture since 1978 and is the principal of Larsen Design Associates. He has taught at Temple University and was previously a partner in Wells, Larsen, Appel, where he received the New Jersey ASLA Design Award for his work on the Merrill Lynch Corporate Campus.

Larry Weaner has been principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, Inc. since 1982. His projects have been included in garden tours sponsored by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, The American Horticulture Society and The Garden Conservancy. Larry founded the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) educational series in 1990.

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Leslie Sauer, Andropogon Associates