

Morris Arboretum
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Philadelphia, PA 19118

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conversations across fields:



Interdisciplinary
Approaches
to Ecological
Landscape
Design



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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

PA: Haverford College
Haverford, PA

**Thursday, January 12 –
Friday, January 13, 2012**

CT: Connecticut College
New London, CT

**Tuesday, January 17 –
Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

2 3 RD A N N U A L S Y M P O S I U M

The expanding scope, scale, and goals of today's landscape projects often require practitioners to consult with, and incorporate knowledge from, a variety of other disciplines. Learn how an interdisciplinary approach to designing ecology based landscapes can help you adapt to the rapid changes our profession is experiencing and enhance your position in a competitive economic environment.

CEUs available



PA: Thursday, January 12, 2012

CT: Tuesday, January 17, 2012

*Registration and continental breakfast 8:15 – 9:00 am.
The program begins at 9 am.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

*Landscape Architecture Meets Ecological Restoration:
A Marriage of Necessity (1.5 hrs)*

Chris Gates (CT only), Gullivar Shephard (PA only), and Steven Apfelbaum

Learn how the landscape architecture firm of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and the ecological restoration firm of Applied Ecological Services have collaborated on projects where ecology and landscape art are of paramount importance. Presenters will also discuss how lessons from these collaborations have informed their approaches to subsequent projects.

Landscape Maintenance and Ecological Succession: Breaking the Tyranny of Bark Mulch and Gang Mowers (1 hr)

Larry Weaner

Landscape management techniques that incorporate ecological processes of change can vastly reduce maintenance inputs. This presentation will explore the theoretic basis and practical application of these strategies, including documentation and field techniques for directing maintenance contractors.

ARBORETA and GROWERS

The Native Plant Thread: From Discovery to Mass Production (1/2 hr)

Ian Caton

This presentation will provide a who's who of arboreta, niche growers, and public institutions evaluating, selecting and introducing native plants. Discover how communicating with researchers and producers can help you stay ahead of the curve.

Preserving Local Ecotypes: One Seed, One Arboretum, One Island at a Time (1 hr)

Timothy Boland

In 2006 Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts launched MV Wildtype, a model program for documenting, reproducing, and promoting local plant ecotypes. Learn about this initiative, its use by landscape professionals, conservation groups, and homeowners, and its replication elsewhere.

ANTHROPOLOGY/HISTORY

Sit Where You Want to Sit, See What You Want to See (1 hr)

Mary Myers, Ph.D., ASLA

How can findings from anthropology and psychology influence landscape design? Research in these disciplines indicates that a sense of personal space and preference for visually "legible" yet varied landscapes are fundamental to our species. Mary Myers will overview proxemic and landscape preference theories, showing how they can be incorporated into the designed landscape.

Writing the Garden: A Literary Conversation across Two Centuries (1 hr)

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers

Landscape historian Elizabeth Barlow Rogers will discuss writers and thinkers from the past two hundred years who contemplated the natural world through their gardens. These writers, although not horticulturists or professional landscape designers, offer insights into our relationship with the natural world and desire to find meaning in the landscape.

Complimentary reception with beer, wine & hors d'oeuvres

PA: Friday, January 13, 2012

CT: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

*Registration and continental breakfast 8:15 – 9:00 am.
The program begins at 9 am.*

AGRICULTURE and the EDIBLE LANDSCAPE

Farmscape Ecology: Agriculture Joins Restoration (1 hr)

Claudia Knab-Vispo, Ph.D. and Conrad Vispo, Ph.D.

What is the interface between agriculture, habitat, and landscape design? How do we ensure that landscape design emulating rural landscapes does not impoverish these places ecologically? Two ecologists consider these and other questions.

A Laissez-faire Approach to the Edible Residential Landscape (1.5 hrs)

"Wildman" Steve Brill and Lee Reich, Ph.D.

Do clients need to plant annual vegetable gardens and devote large areas to orchards in order to enjoy the edible "fruits" of their landscape? Our two presenters will explore less intensive approaches, where both woody and herbaceous edible plants are integrated into the designed natural landscape.

European Pasture Grasses and Native Grasses: How Are They Different? (1 hr)

James Green, Jr., Ph.D.

Clients, especially those with agrarian landscapes, are often interested in establishing grasslands, yet the pros and cons of European pasture grass versus native grass ecosystems are often not well understood. This presentation highlights the aesthetic and functional differences of these two communities, including establishment and management requirements, habitat values, and suitability for grazing and biomass production.

FINE ART

The Artful Garden: Oehme van Sweden and Creative Inspiration for Landscape Design (1 hr)

Eric Groft, ASLA

Eric Groft, a principal at Oehme van Sweden, will explain how, regardless of a site's size or character, the same principles apply: intelligent use of positive and negative space, form and scale, light and shadow, rough and smooth textures. Groft will share the connection between the garden path and the horizon of a painting, the syncopation of jazz and the free form of nature, and the intrigue of a good novel and the mystery of a thoughtfully sculpted landscape.

Drawing Water: Artful Collaborations in Response to Site Conditions (1 hr)

Stacy Levy

The sculptor Stacy Levy collaborates with landscape architects, engineers, and ecologists to create site-specific artwork that is a key part of overall site design. Levy, in presenting a series of projects around water, will explore the process behind her collaborations and share tips for working with artists.

Bonsai and Natural Landscape Design? Really? What's the Connection? (1 hr)

Arthur Joura

The bonsai collection at the North Carolina Arboretum is unlike any other in the country, featuring mixed species compositions that literally interpret native plant communities. Joura will show images from this collection while discussing the artistic considerations used to create these extraordinary compositions.

SPEAKERS

Steven Apfelbaum, Principal Ecologist and Chairman of Applied Ecological Services, is one of the leading ecological restoration consultants in the U.S., with experience on over 7,000 projects, including Prairie Crossings (a conservation development in Illinois) and closure plans for Fresh Kills Landfill in New York. In addition to his many articles, technical reports, and book chapters, Apfelbaum is the author of *Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm* (2010) and co-author of *Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land* (2010), a comprehensive how-to restoration book for landowners.

Timothy Boland is the Executive Director of Polly Hill Arboretum located in West Tisbury, Massachusetts on the island of Martha's Vineyard and former Curator of Horticulture at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. He is a nationally recognized author, photographer, and lecturer. With a special interest in plant ecology and the use of native plants to restore and reconnect fragmented landscapes, he is actively involved in the development of a modern flora for Martha's Vineyard and the conservation of its unique natural areas.

"Wildman" Steve Brill is America's go-to-guy for foraging, and a self-taught naturalist, environmental educator, author, and artist who had led thousands of public and private foraging tours throughout the greater New York City region since 1982. He has written three books on the subject and authored a foraging app, but he's still best known for having been arrested and handcuffed for eating a dandelion in Central Park.

Ian Caton is a designer with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates. Highly knowledgeable about native plants, natural communities, and their incorporation into the human environment, he has designed and installed native landscapes for residential, commercial, and public settings. Ian received a BS in Ornamental Horticulture and Environmental Design from Delaware Valley College.

Chris Gates is a Senior Associate at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. He joined the firm in 2005 and has been involved in the design and construction of campuses, parks, and residential gardens throughout the northeast. His latest projects include the development of landscape master plans for Vassar College and North Grant Park in Chicago.

James Green, Jr., Ph.D. is a grassland and forage agronomist and Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University. He specializes in grassland and forage management, with an emphasis on grazing practices that impact utilization, animal performance, and natural resource protection. He currently serves as an Extension Specialist and as a technical advisor for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Eric Groft, ASLA, Principal at Oehme, van Sweden Landscape Architecture has over twenty-five years of experience in residential, commercial, and institutional work and prides himself in his sense of regionalism and appropriateness. He has a passion for horticulture and is widely recognized as an industry leader in environmental/wetland restoration, and shoreline stabilization.

Arthur Joura is the curator of the large bonsai collection at the North Carolina Arboretum, a position he has held since 1992. Having studied bonsai with some of the leading bonsai authorities in the U.S., he has toured extensively in the eastern U.S. as a lecturer and teacher and has been featured in numerous regional and national publications for his work with the Arboretum's bonsai collection.

Claudia Knab-Vispo, Ph.D. works with Conrad Vispo and a social scientist at the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program in

Columbia County, New York to document the interaction of plants and human land uses. Through fieldwork and historical research, she is currently recording vegetation change in botanically distinct areas of Columbia County.

Stacy Levy is an artist who uses the language of landscape and art to tell the ecological story of a site. She works closely with architects, engineers, horticulturalists, and soil scientists. Her work, which reveals the sometimes hidden natural world in urban environments, blends sustainable design and ecological concepts while harnessing the ephemeral changes of weather, light, and vegetation with the lasting presence of sculpture.

Mary Myers, Ph.D., ASLA, is a landscape architect and Chair of Temple University's Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. She spearheaded the development of Temple's new Master of Landscape Architecture program, one of five in the country with a concentration in ecological restoration. Myers is Chair of the national Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board and Fellow and Past President of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

Lee Reich, Ph.D. calls himself a farmdener (more than a gardener, less than a farmer). Following plant and soil research with the USDA and Cornell University, Reich turned to writing, lecturing, and consulting. He writes regularly for *Fine Gardening* and *Horticulture*, and his books include *A Northeast Gardener's Year* (1993), *The Pruning Book* (2010, 2nd ed.), *Weedless Gardening* (2001), *Uncommon Fruits for Every Garden* (2008), and *Landscaping with Fruit* (2009). His garden has been featured in the *New York Times* and *Martha Stewart Living* and won awards from National Gardening and *Organic Gardening* magazines.

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers is an author and the president of the Foundation for Landscape Studies. From 1980 to 1995 she served as the founding president of the Central Park Conservancy, and between 2001 and 2005 she was the founding director of Garden History and Landscape Studies at the Bard Graduate Center in New York City. Her book *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History* (2001) is a primary text for historical survey courses in landscape architecture schools. Her most recent publication, *Writing the Garden: A Literary Conversation Across Two Centuries* (2011), brings gardeners who have written about gardens through the years together in a virtual symposium.

Gullivar Shepard is a Senior Associate at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. He is intimately involved in conducting much of MVVA's urban design and master planning work, including Brooklyn Bridge Park, Princeton University, the Lower Don Lands on Toronto's waterfront, and for the winning proposal for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial competition in St. Louis.

Conrad Vispo, Ph.D., an ecologist, works with Claudia Knab-Vispo at the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program in Columbia County, New York, focusing on applied animal ecology. Most recently, he has been exploring the role of agriculture in providing habitat for native species and the importance of native (or at least wild) species in providing ecological services to farms.

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. Larry developed New Directions in the American Landscape conference series in 1990.