CONFERENCE DAY AT A GLANCE:

8:30 A.M.
Registration & Continental Breakfast

9 A.M.
Brooke M. Beebe, NPC Director
Larry Weaner
Conference Introduction

9:15 A.M.
William Cullina
Native Plants in Context

11:15 A.M.
Lunch Break

12:30 P.M.
Rick Darke
Learning the Layers:
Design Inspired by Plant Communities

2:30 P.M.
Afternoon Break

2:45 P.M.
Panel Discussion with Larry Weaner,
William Cullina, Rick Darke
Reconsidering the Rules?

4:00 P.M.
Conference Ends

CONFERENCE LOCATED AT:
CLASSROOM (CLA) BUILDING - ROOM 200
WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
75 GRASSLANDS ROAD, VALHALLA, NY
(914) 606-7870

CONFERENCE PARKING:
LOT # 4

The Layered Landscape:
Creating Natural Gardens
From the Ground Up

Thursday, March 15, 2007
(Snow Date: March 16)

Westchester Community College
Valhalla, NY

Co-Sponsored By:
The Native Plant Center at WCC
and
New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)
The Layered Landscape: Creating Natural Gardens From the Ground Up

While garden plans are often static two-dimensional documents, our native landscapes consist of interwoven and multi-layered tapestries that transform dramatically over time. In this conference we will illustrate how plants grow and proliferate in their native habitats, and how that information can be used to create more dynamic landscape gardens.

Part One: The Plants
Native Plants in Context (2 hours)
William Cullina
Effectively designing natural landscapes requires more than familiarity with individual native plants. It requires an understanding of their ecological context, information that is rarely included in horticultural texts. In this presentation, Mr. Cullina will illustrate a variety of native woody and herbaceous plants, as well as information on their habitat, plant associates, proliferation strategies, and the role they play in the process of ecological succession.

Part Two: The Composition
Learning the Layers: Design Inspired by Plant Communities (2 hours)
Rick Darke
Dare to deviate from merely decorative design! Add meaning to your method by drawing direct inspiration from regional plant communities. Rick Darke will present strategies for observing, analyzing, and emulating the pattern, process, and palette of local ecologies in your landscape designs.

Part 3: The Practical Ramifications
Reconsidering the Rules? A Panel Discussion (1hr)
Larry Weaner, William Cullina, Rick Darke
Panel and participants will be presented with a number of images depicting commonly practiced horticultural techniques, and will comment on their actual effectiveness in light of the native landscape dynamics that have been previously discussed.

Speaker Profiles:

William Cullina is the Nursery Director at Nasami Farm and Head Propagator at the Garden in the Woods, both of which are owned and operated by the New England Wild Flower Society. He is also the author of Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines and Growing and Propagating Wildflowers. His newest book, Native Ferns, Moss and Grasses, will be published in the fall of 2007.

Rick Darke heads a Pennsylvania-based consulting firm focused on landscape ethics, photography, and contextual design. He has been photographing and studying North American plant communities for over 30-years. His work has been featured on National Public Radio and is reflected in his many books including The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest and his latest, The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes. For further information, see: www.rickdarke.com

Larry Weaner is president of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, a natural landscape design/build firm that he founded in 1982. He has lectured throughout the U.S. and his projects have been featured in numerous publications. He is a past board member and environmental committee chair of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, and developed the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) educational series in 1990.