NEW! Landscaping With Native Plants

The New York Botanical Garden with New Directions in the American Landscape present this conference on landscaping with native plants. Utilizing native plants can enhance the environment, provide a beautiful landscape setting, and reduce maintenance. Learn about native plants, their value for garden and landscape, and discover the dynamics of plant communities within their environment. Gain an understanding of how to determine the “ecological context” of a site and how to create a landscape that truly expresses its natural character.

Thursday, February 28, 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall at the Garden

Morning: Featured Speakers 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Patterns and Processes of Our Regional Landscapes

In order to get you started on your natural landscape, this lecture focuses on how to evaluate a property for its native plant potential. Dr. Robertson will discuss questions such as what plants grow naturally on a site or how can native plants be reintroduced. Discover patterns within plant communities (groups of plants that commonly grow together) and study ways to achieve a setting that looks, acts, and feels like a balanced natural setting.

Native Plants in Context

Now as native plants become more and more popular and available in the market place, how do you choose the correct plants for your environment. Mr. Gormel illustrates a variety of native woody and herbaceous plants, as well as information on their habitat, plant communities, animal interactions, and propagation. Gather information that is rarely available in horticultural texts such as what ecological role each plant assumes and how that impacts a design.

Dr. David Robertson is Executive Director of the Pennypack Ecological Trust, a 720-acre nature preserve in Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania. He is also a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, and a founding member and past officer of the Society for Ecological Restoration Mid-Atlantic Region.

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. Mr. Gormel previously practiced landscape architecture and is a native plant consultant, professional photographer, and frequent lecturer.

Afternoon: Featured Speaker and Panel 1–2:30 p.m.

Creating More Self-Reliant Landscapes

Most often, decisions on plant selection are based on aesthetic qualities, bloom time, and seasonal interest to name a few. However, the selection of native plants is based on the relationship between all living elements of an environment. Discover techniques for using native plants to create easily managed and artistically accomplished gardens.

Larry Weaner is president of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, founded in 1982, a natural landscape design/build firm whose projects have been featured in numerous publications. Larry 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 educational series in 1990.

Question-and-Answer Session and Open Panel Discussion

Larry Weaner, David Robertson, Mark Gormel

$95 non-members, $86 members

GAR 805 Thursday, February 28, 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Location: Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall at the Garden

To register, or for more information, call 718.817.8747.