

Evolving Strategies for Evolving Landscapes: Beyond the Garden Bed

Day 1, January 8

8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9 a.m. Welcome

9:15 a.m. Landscape Patterns: Beauty and the Beasts,

Part 1--The Beasts--*Marc-André Villard*--Understanding landscape mosaics and knowing how to work with these spatial patterns is key to promoting the persistence of wildlife in our fields and forests. This presentation will provide an analytical framework for use in urban, suburban, and rural settings, examining such issues as functional connectivity, edge and matrix effects, and habitat loss versus fragmentation.

10:30 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Part 2--The Beauty--*Robert Poore*--Form follows function...or does it? The idea of human function as the overriding design determinate of form is being replaced by the concept that ecological processes and the artistic patterns they create should be the driving force. Join a landscape architect to explore the term “form follows function,” its evolution into an ecological design concept, and its applications across multiple projects.

12:15 p.m. Is Beauty Compatible with the Beasts? – Panel

Robert Poore and Marc-André Villard. Moderated by Larry Weaner

12:45 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Sustaining Native Pollinators: Beyond the Butterfly Garden--*Deborah Delaney*--If our native landscapes are to be “sustainable,” our native flora needs to be able to self-perpetuate. This requires seed production and, in turn, the services of pollinators. This presentation will discuss pollinators found in the northeast and their nutritional requirements; the effect of land use on pollinator health and diversity; and new data on pollinator preferences of different plant cultivars within specific genera.

3:00 p.m. Lawn Alternatives: Methods That Really Work--*Tom Christopher*--With over 40 million acres of lawn in the United States, viable alternatives to turf that have the look and feel of lawn could provide significant ecological impact. Learn about non-traditional turf grasses and planting techniques that require only several annual mowings and can thrive without conventional fertilization, liming, pesticides, and intensive irrigation.

4:00 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. Deciduous Forests of the Northeast: Insights from Japan and Europe--*Robert Askins*--

Understanding the history and ecology of deciduous forests is critical to sustaining the health of these systems. This presentation will explore how studies of remarkably similar forests in Europe and East Asia provide new insights into how practitioners can protect and manage forests on their own projects.

5:15 p.m. Reception with beer, wine, & hors d'oeuvres. Book signing with Robert Askins and Tom Christopher.

Day 2, January 9

8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9 a.m. The Flora of the Future, Part 1--Overlooked Perspectives on the Ecology and Management of Invasive

Plants--Bernd Blossey--All habitats in the northeast are facing impacts from fragmentation, climate change, invasive species, and increasing deer populations. Which native species can we assume to be safe? Which will likely go extinct? And what role can designers play? Bernd Blossey, a leading authority on invasive plants, will share his insights, some of which run counter to commonly held beliefs.

10 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Part 2--Picking Your Battles in an Era of Globalized Vegetation--Larry Weaner--Why are some wild landscapes dominated by invasive species while others appear relatively impervious? This presentation will examine the ecological conditions and processes that result in these two vegetative trajectories and feature practical techniques to enable historic plant communities to persist in the garden and the wild.

11:30 a.m. Panel--Working in a Vegetative Maelstrom--Bernd Blossey and Larry Weaner
Moderated by Jenna Webster (PA) and Glenn Dreyer (CT)

12 noon Lunch---Book signing at lunch with Warren Byrd.

1:30 p.m.--“Thought Fossils:” Language, Landscape, and Human Ecology in Algonquian America--Kerry Hardy--Place names—what cross-disciplinary researcher Kerry Hardy calls “thought fossils”—can offer remarkably durable testimony into seemingly lost cultures and their landscape practices. Hardy uses place names along with mythology and natural and human history to gain insight into the pre-European ecosystems in which native peoples lived and operated. His unique approach offers a new way to read present-day landscapes to more deeply understand their pasts and more effectively influence their futures.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Nelson Byrd Woltz: Evolving Practice--Warren Byrd, Jr. & Serena Nelson--The landscape architecture firm Nelson Byrd Woltz has long been at the forefront of plant driven design. Join the firm’s founder and a highly accomplished associate to learn about the genesis of the firm’s approach, how it is evolving to incorporate ecology, conservation, and agriculture, and how this broad knowledge base is being passed from one generation of practitioners to the next.

4:45 p.m. Adjourn