

Zooming In/Zooming Out: Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive Day One—Thursday, January 14, 2016

8:15 a.m.—Registration and Continental Breakfast

9 a.m.—Welcome

9:15 a.m.—Native Graminoids: From the Species to the Community Level

Part I – Sedges and Rushes: Tell Us Something We Don't Know—*Wesley Knapp*

Sedges and rushes are some of our most ubiquitous and beautiful native plants; yet they often play only bit parts in our designed landscapes. Join a botanist-ecologist for a palette-expanding experience as he delves into some of our region's most interesting and useful species.

10:15 a.m.—Break

10:30 a.m.—Part II – Native Grasslands: Making Sense of the Community Scale—

Greg Edinger—Successful establishment of native grasses requires not only an understanding of the plants themselves, but the ecological contexts that sustain them. This presentation “zooms out” to offer a broad yet revealing look at these unique communities, their characteristic species, structures, patterns, and processes.

11:30 a.m.—Plant Community Design: The Horticulture-Ecology Gradient,

Part I – The Science behind Wild and Designed Plant Communities--*Claudia West*

While designers now have access to many native species and their cultivars, awesome plants don't always translate into great projects. This presentation dives into the fascinating world of wild plant communities, the inter-planting strategies revolutionizing gardens in Europe, and the core plant community principles on which concrete landscape strategies can be based.

12:30 p.m.--Lunch *Book signing with Claudia West*

1:45 p.m.--Part II – Wild by Intent: Ecosystem Thinking from the Lady Bird Johnson

Wildflower Center--*Michelle Bright*--Learn how the Ecosystem Design Group of the world-renowned Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center uses “ecosystem thinking” and a plant community-based approach throughout its design, research, consulting, and higher education practices. Case studies show how this way of working, grounded in the vision of the Center's founder, Lady Bird Johnson, is being applied to contemporary landscape design and ecological restoration.

2:45 p.m.--What We Need: Designers Converse

Michelle Bright, Larry Weaner, Claudia West--Join a wide ranging and frank discussion of the evolving green industry, and the practical and conceptual alterations needed to better support the work of ecology minded designers.

3:30 p.m.--Break

3:45 p.m.--Making Ecological Design Beautiful--Context Driven: Design For and By Place

David Maynes--The landscape architecture firm Richardson and Associates designs in the spirit of place, using a site's plants and materials, ecological patterns and processes, and layered histories as inspiration and anchor. Gain an inside look at how this deeply immersive approach achieves landscapes that strengthen and enhance the relationship between people and place.

4:45 p.m.--Complimentary reception will with beer, wine, & hors d'oeuvres

**Zooming In/Zooming Out: Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive
Day Two—Friday, January 15, 2016**

9 a.m.--Landscape Redux: A Tale of Management Balancing Acts, Synthesis, and Big

Visions--Jenna Webster--How do you turn around a weed-infested landscape when many of the necessary steps conflict with imperiled bird species already using that very landscape? Learn how a unique planting and management plan for a 100-acre grassland atop a capped landfill negotiated this challenge by synthesizing crowdsourced data, scientific research, field experience, and a vision steeped in site history.

10 a.m.--Break

10:30 a.m.--Plant Communities and Associations of the Northeast: An Ecologist's Perspective

Ted Elliman--The northeast features diverse forest, meadow, wetland, and coastal plant communities, all of which can serve as valuable models for the design of native landscapes. Join ecologist Ted Elliman as he examines naturally occurring flora in these communities, focusing on both common and rare species and the effects of natural succession, disturbance, and invasive plants.

11:30 a.m.--The Social Life of Plants: Insights on Planting Design--Roy Diblik

Acclaimed nurseryman, designer, and author Roy Diblik will discuss his approach to social planting design, in which plants, rather than being isolated specimens, interact to form dynamic communities. He will draw upon his years of experience using innovative techniques, including planting in gravel to control weeds and, more recently, with hugelkultur—or “hill culture” planting in mounded organic material—on vacant lots in Chicago.

12:30 p.m.--Lunch--Book signing with Roy Diblik and sale of Reed Hilderbrand's monograph.

1:45 p.m.--Seeds of a National Seed Strategy --Peggy Olwell

Does the quality and quantity of seed needed by a burgeoning native design movement exist? Learn about a new federal program, overseen by the western hemisphere's largest seed purchaser, to establish a network of native seed collectors, growers, and seed storage facilities. Learn about the role designers can play in this important initiative, which seeks to ensure that the right seed is in the right place at the right time.

2:45 p.m.--Native Variation: a Panel on Ecotypes, Selections, & Cultivars

Roy Diblik, Ted Elliman, Peggy Olwell

Once a designer selects a species the decision making process is not over. Is a cultivar of that species a help or a hindrance? Is a seed-grown selection a better option? Or, should a regional ecotype be specified? If so, is it even available? Our panel will discuss ways to navigate these increasingly important and complex decisions.

3:30 p.m.--Break

3:45 p.m.--Making Ecological Design Manageable

Realizing Design Intent through Ecological Management: Insights from Reed Hilderbrand

John Kett--Working with ecological patterns to achieve specific spatial aims and rich habitats requires a carefully calibrated yet flexible management regime. Through the lens of ongoing projects, this session explores how the design firm Reed Hilderbrand works with clients and consultants to ensure that landscape management achieves both design and ecological goals.

5:00 p.m.--Adjourn