

Morris Arboretum Education Dept.
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

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Zooming In/Zooming Out

Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive



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Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive

Typically landscape designers first determine their overall design direction, and then zoom in to design the details. But in an ecology-based approach, a site's intricate environmental characteristics can and should influence big picture decisions. This two-day conference will explore crucial aspects of the native design process, beginning at the scale of individual species, and gradually zooming out to include plant community design, ecological master planning, and methods for creating sophisticated ecological designs within the context of current as well as emerging landscape practices.

CEUs available

sponsored *by*

New Directions in the American Landscape
(developed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates)

Connecticut College Arboretum

Morris Arboretum of the
University of Pennsylvania

co-sponsored *by*

PA/DE Chapter of the American
Society of Landscape Architects

dates&locations

CT: Cummings Art Center
Connecticut College Arboretum
New London, CT
January 7–8, 2016

PA: Science Center Auditorium
Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell, PA
January 14–15, 2016



Native Graminoids: From the Species to the Community Level

Part I – Sedges and Rushes: Tell Us Something We Don't Know (1 hr)

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 true palette-expanding experience as he delves into some of our region's most interesting and useful species.

Part II – Native Grasslands: Making Sense of the Community Scale (1 hr)

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.

Plant Community Design: the Horticulture-Ecology Gradient

Part I – The Science behind Wild and Designed Plant Communities (1 hr)

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.

**Book signing at lunch with Claudia West*

Part II – Wild by Intent: Ecosystem Thinking from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (1 hr)

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 will demonstrate 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.

What We Need: Designers Converse (¾ hour)

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.

Making Ecological Design Beautiful

Context Driven: Design For and By Place (1 hr)

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.

**A complimentary reception will follow with beer, wine, & hors d'oeuvres.*

Fees

Fees (per person)

Early Bird: \$330 if received online or postmarked by Dec. 11, 2015.
\$355 if received online or postmarked after Dec. 11, 2015.

Student Rate (with student ID):

Early Bird: \$190 if received online or postmarked by Dec. 11, 2015.
\$215 if received online or postmarked after Dec. 11, 2015.

(Students must enclose a copy of student ID with registration and present that ID at the conference.)

Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, break refreshments, and evening reception.

Pennsylvania Registrations

Secure online registration: online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS.

Phone: (215) 247-5777, ext. 125. Have credit card ready to register.

Mail: send completed form and check payable to Morris Arboretum to:

Morris Arboretum, Education Department
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Pennsylvania Accommodations

Courtyard by Marriott, Montgomeryville, (215) 699-7241. Mention Landscape Design Symposium for discounted rate by Dec. 23.

Connecticut Registrations

Secure online registration: www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum.

Phone: (860) 439-5020. Have credit card ready to register.

Mail: send completed form and check payable to Connecticut College to:

Connecticut College Arboretum
270 Mohegan Avenue, Campus Box 5201
New London, CT 06320-4196

Connecticut Accommodations

Holiday Inn, New London, 860-443-7000. Mention Connecticut College Landscape Symposium for discounted rate by Dec. 29.

Landscape Redux: A Tale of Management Balancing Acts, Synthesis, and Big Visions (1 hr)

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.

Plant Communities and Associations of the Northeast: An Ecologist's Perspective (1 hr)

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.

The Social Life of Plants: Insights on Planting Design (1 hr)

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.

Seeds of a National Seed Strategy (1 hr)

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.

** Lunch will feature a book signing with Roy Diblik, and sale of Reed Hilderbrand's monograph.*

Native Variation: A Panel on Ecotypes, Selections, and Cultivars (¾ hour)

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.

Making Ecological Design Manageable

Realizing Design Intent through Ecological Management: Insights from Reed Hilderbrand (1¼ hrs)

John Kett (PA only), Rebekah Sturges (CT only)

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.

Comments from 2015 Conference Attendees

“I enjoyed every single session—top notch, great quality and so informative.”

“Entertaining and inspiring presentations.”

“I always enjoy this program and gain a lot of knowledge and inspiration.”



Mail-in Registration Form

Please print clearly:

Name(s) _____

Company (if applicable) _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

☐ Please do not include me on attendees list.

☐ Vegetarian lunch ☐ Meat lunch ☐ Gluten free lunch

Check one: ☐ Early Bird Regular Rate \$330 ☐ Regular Rate \$355
☐ Early Bird Student Rate \$190 ☐ Student Rate \$215

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

Registration will be refunded only if notification is received no later than seven (7) working days prior to the event less a \$15 processing fee.

Please note that Montgomery County Community College is not affiliated with the event and should not be contacted regarding the program.

Speakers

A 27 Year Tradition

Since its founding in 1990, our natural design conference has avoided trendy jargon in favor of landscape techniques that succeed in the real world. Speakers represent a wide range of fields and often provide information rarely found in traditional landscape programs. The varied experiences of our conference attendees, many of whom attend year after year, enhance our program and offer excellent opportunities for professional interaction. We invite you to join us this year as we explore landscapes across scales.

Michelle Bright is an environmental designer with the Ecosystem Design group (EDG) at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. She oversees multiple offsite projects within the realm of urban prairie creation, native turfgrass installation, stream bank restoration, and green roof and native plant design. Prior to work at the Wildflower Center, she served as a field ecologist with AKRF, Inc. in New Jersey.

Roy Diblik, co-founder of Northwind Perennial Farm in Wisconsin, is a recognized perennial plant grower, designer, and author of *The Know Maintenance Garden* (2014). With 35 years of knowledge growing Midwest native perennials, he specializes in designing sustainable plant communities that reduce maintenance through design. He has worked closely with designer Piet Oudolf on in the United States, including the famed Lurie Garden in Chicago.

Greg Edinger has served as Chief Ecologist with the New York Natural Heritage Program for 20 years. He is the lead editor of the 2014 revised edition of *Ecological Communities of New York State*. He has overseen biodiversity inventories for over 100 state Wildlife Management Areas and vegetation mapping of seven sites administered by the National Park Service. In 2010 he was one of the principal authors of the EPA Ecoregions of New York map.

Ted Elliman has been a botanist, invasive species manager, and educator for the New England Wildflower Society, based in Framingham, Massachusetts, for many years. He previously worked as a contract ecologist for the National Park Service conducting floristic and natural community surveys throughout the northeast. He is the author of the forthcoming *Wildflowers of New England* (Timber Press, 2016).

John Kett is a Principal of Reed Hilderbrand in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His projects include Louisiana's Old State Capital Grounds and Repentance Park in Baton Rouge, more than a decade of engagement with Brandeis University, and extensive rehabilitation projects at Marshcourt, a collaboration between Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. John has developed approaches to manage the firm's workflow and has addressed national audiences on collaborations with artists, scientists, and architects.

Wesley Knapp is a botanist with the Maryland Natural Heritage Program, a Research Associate at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, and an instructor with the Wetlands Training Institute. Wesley is the author of various treatments of the rush family, including work for the new Gleason and Cronquist manual *Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States*.

David Maynes is a Project Manager with Richardson & Associates in Maine and formerly ran his own design-build firm. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Horticulture and Design from the University of Maine and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Massachusetts. He received an Award of Excellence from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects for his research on phytoremediation systems in contaminated post-industrial landscapes.

Peggy Olwell is Plant Conservation Program Lead for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Washington, D.C. and Chair of the Plant Conservation Alliance Federal Committee. A botanist by training, she has worked in plant conservation for more than 25 years and leads BLM's Native Plant Materials Development Program and the National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration, a collaborative effort of over 500 partners.

Rebekah Sturges is an Associate Principal at Reed Hilderbrand and directs the firm's presence in New Haven, Connecticut. She has participated in the design and implementation of the Old Quarry Residence in Guildford, Connecticut and Arkansas' Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and has served as project landscape architect and manager for Phase 2 of the renewal and expansion of the Clark Art Institute in Massachusetts. She is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Art History at Connecticut College.

Jenna Webster is a designer with Larry Weaner Landscape Associates in Pennsylvania. She works on landscape master plans for residential properties of all sizes and specializes in preparing detailed management manuals for new and existing landscapes. Since 2010, she has played a key role in developing New Directions in the American Landscape programs.

Claudia West is the Ecological Sales Manager at North Creek Nurseries in Pennsylvania, where she works closely with ecological design and restoration professionals, offering consultation services from initial project planning to adaptive management strategies. Her work centers on the development of stable, layered planting designs and the desire to bring American native plants back into our landscape by making them widely acceptable. She recently co-authored *Planting in a Post Wild World* (2015) with Thomas Rainer.