

## *Native Landscape Design: Reality Versus Perception*

### **16TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

#### **New Directions in the American Landscape**

CEU's available for Landscape Architects and Designers



*The more we learn about nature—its processes, its responses to human activity, and the reactions it elicits from people—the more we realize how dramatically it differs from common perceptions. This conference goes beyond these perceptions, to explore some of the underlying practical, ecological, and psychological issues that distinguish native design from traditional practice.*

#### **Sponsored By:**

Morris Arboretum of the  
University of Pennsylvania

Connecticut College Arboretum

New Directions in the  
American Landscape (NDAL)

#### **Co-Sponsored By:**

PA/DE Chapter of the American  
Society of Landscape Architects

### **LOCATIONS AND DATES**

**CT: Connecticut College**  
New London, CT

**Day 1:** Thursday, January 12, 2006

**Day 2:** Friday, January 13, 2006

**PA: Arboretum Villanova**  
Villanova, PA

**Day 1:** Tuesday, January 31, 2006

**Day 2:** Wednesday, February 1, 2006

## DAY 1

CT: Thursday, January, 12, 2006

PA: Tuesday, January 31, 2006

### PART 1 - REGARDING NATURE

#### *The Long Lens of History:*

#### *People and the Forest Ecosystem* (1.5 hr.)

**David Foster, Ph.D.**

**Perception:** Understanding forest ecology must come from the study of "natural" areas free of human impact.

**Reality:** Very few, if any, forests have avoided repeated human use. Successful management must be based on an understanding of both natural and man-made influences on forest vegetation.

#### *Landscape Disturbance as a Management Tool* (2 hr.)

**Gerould Wilhelm, Ph.D.**

**Perception:** Human-administered landscape disturbance is by definition detrimental to the ecological balance of the landscape.

**Reality:** The selective application of disturbance may be the single most powerful tool for creating and managing ecologically healthy and culturally beneficial landscapes. This understanding can be obtained from the work of contemporary ecologists as well as by examining the historic land management practices of Native Americans.

### PART 2 – REGARDING THE GARDEN

#### *Pond and Meadow: A Low Tech Approach* (1 hr.)

**Bill Lamack**

**Perception:** Ponds are high cost installations that require complex pump and filtering systems and large quantities of stones and plants.

**Reality:** Understanding the aquatic ecosystem, and how it interacts with surrounding upland vegetation, can lead to a less complex and costly installation that looks and functions more like a natural pond landscape.

#### *Brains Over Brawn:*

#### *Maintaining the Naturalistic Garden* (1 hr.)

**Richard W. Lighty, Ph.D.**

**Perception:** Large garden areas, particularly those dominated by herbaceous perennials, are inherently high maintenance.

**Reality:** When native plants, ecological processes and creative thinking are carefully employed, even seven acres of natural areas and intensive gardens, like the property of Richard and Sally Lighty, can be easily managed.

**Social Hour: Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres**



## DAY 2

CT: Friday, January, 13, 2006

PA: Wednesday, February, 1, 2006

#### *The Dichotomy Between Natural and Traditional Landscape Methodology* (1 hr.)

**Larry Weaner**

**Perception:** Native garden design alters the plant palette but uses the same methodology as traditional practice.

**Reality:** The altered goals and scale of native landscapes often require alternative design, implementation and management methods, a surprising number of which are diametrically opposed to traditional horticultural practices.

#### *Nature in the City:*

#### *Unexpected Opportunities* (1 hr.)

**Carol Franklin, FASLA, RLA**

**Perception:** Urban and town center landscapes are so dramatically disturbed that the meaningful re-establishment of natural environments is not possible.

**Reality:** Despite seemingly harsh urban conditions, parks, roofs, day lighted streams, pedestrian corridors and small pocket gardens can provide surprisingly effective natural havens for people and wildlife in both public and private spaces.

### PART 3 - REGARDING PEOPLE

#### *How People Perceive Nature* (1 hr)

**Robert Ryan, ASLA, Ph.D.**

**Perception:** Native landscape gardens are appreciated by a particular segment of the public and rejected by another.

**Reality:** Studies have shown that a broad segment of the population perceives particular characteristics of nature as threatening and other aspects as appealing. Understanding this can allow designers to more effectively satisfy their clients, and foster a broader interest in a native approach than they may have thought possible.

#### *Panel Discussion:*

#### *The Nature Business is Very High Pressure* (1 hr.)

**Carol Franklin, FASLA, RLA, Thomas Tait, Larry Weaner**

**Perception:** A landscape designer's workday is filled with a bucolic blend of creativity, plants and nature.

**Reality:** You know better. We need to reduce stress and extraneous activities so we actually *can* focus more on plants, creativity and nature.

#### *Zen and the Experiential Aspects of Garden Design* (1 hr.)

**Stephen A. Morrell**

**Perception:** The spiritually based aesthetic underlying Zen gardens has no place in the western ecological landscape movement.

**Reality:** For hundreds of years practitioners of Japanese garden design have cultivated a strong rapport with nature. Understanding their approach can enhance the experiential aspect of ecologically based American gardens.

# A Note From the Organizers

Recent research has shown that the “wild” landscapes encountered by the first Europeans did not result purely from natural processes as it is widely believed. It had, in fact, been altered on a vast scale by the management practices of Native Americans. Their understanding of ecological cause and effect, developed over thousands of years, allowed them to bring cultural land use to a very sophisticated level. It is interesting to note that Indians returning to Yosemite National Park years after their removal commented on the “unkempt” appearance of the land that they no longer were permitted to “tend.”\*

What does this mean to landscape practitioners? On a philosophical level it can cause us to reassess the meaning of ecological restoration and preservation. On a practical level, it connects us to a body of knowledge that could significantly enhance our ability to manage landscapes. Regarding this conference, it illustrates that re-evaluating common perceptions can be a very worthwhile endeavor.

\* *Tending the Wild*, by M. Kat Anderson, University of California Press.



**Fee Per Person:** \$289 includes continental breakfast, lunch and breaks

**Student Rate:** \$195 includes continental breakfast, lunch and breaks  
(Students must enclose copy of Student ID with registration and present ID at conference)

Map and symposium schedule will be sent with confirmation.

Registration will be refunded only when notification is received no later than 7 working days prior to event.

**For More Information Call:** **PA:** (215) 247-5777 Ext. 156, Fax: (215) 247-7862 **CT:** (860) 439-5020, Fax: (860) 439-5482

**Hotel Accommodations:** **PA:** Best Western/King of Prussia (610) 265-4500 *Mention Landscape Symposium*  
**CT:** Holiday Inn of New London (860) 442-0631 *Mention Landscape Symposium*

## REGISTRATION FORM

Make checks payable and  
fax or mail registration forms to:

**PA: Morris Arboretum, Educ. Dept.**  
100 Northwestern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

**CT: The Connecticut College Arboretum**  
Box 5201 - Connecticut College  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320-4196

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## SPEAKER PROFILES

**David Foster, Ph.D.** is director of Harvard Forest, Harvard University, Petersham, MA. David is a plant ecologist and principal investigator of the Forest's NSF-funded Long-Term Ecological Research Program. He is the author of numerous scientific papers as well as the books *Forests in Time: The Environmental Consequences of 1,000 Years of Change in New England*, and *Thoreau's Country: Journey Through a Transformed Landscape*.

**Carol L. Franklin, FASLA, RLA** is a founding member of Andropogon Associates, Ltd., Philadelphia, PA, a world renowned landscape architecture firm committed to the integration of natural, cultural, historical and social resources. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts where she has taught for thirty years.

**Bill Lamack** has been the grounds and nursery manager at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA for the past 11 years and is widely recognized for his knowledge of native plants. He previously worked as a horticulturist at the Holden Arboretum in Kirkland, OH, and at Virginia Tech as a native plant horticulturist.

**Richard W. Lighty, Ph.D.** is the retired founding director of Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora in Greenville, DE. From 1983 to 1998 he managed the center's development emphasizing the selection, introduction and display of plants native to the Piedmont region of eastern North America. He is the recipient of many awards, including the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal and Award presented by the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College in PA.

**Stephen A. Morrell** is principal of Contemplative Landscapes, Chester, CT, and has designed Japanese-inspired gardens for both private clients and public gardens in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. Since 1981 he has been curator of the John F. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden in Mill Neck, NY and lectures widely on Japanese garden design and its relation to American landscapes.

**Robert L. Ryan, ASLA, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. He is a co-author of the award-winning book *With People in Mind: Design and Management of Everyday Nature*, and co-director of the New England Greenway Vision Plan project. His current research interests include understanding the factors that affect people's attachment to parks and open space.

**Thomas Tait** is the principal and sole employee of Gardeners Guild Inc., a firm that has provided design and horticultural consultation as well as construction and garden management services for private residences in the Washington, DC area for the past 11 years. Prior to graduating from the Longwood Gardens Professional Gardeners Program in 1994, he worked as a project manager for one of the larger landscape firms in the DC area.

**Larry Weaner** has been principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, Inc. since 1982. His projects have been featured in national and international publications and have been included in garden tours sponsored by the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, The American Horticulture Society and The Garden Conservancy. Larry founded the New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) educational series in 1990.

**Gerould Wilhelm, Ph.D.**, is principal-in-charge of the Environmental Services Group at Conservation Design Forum, Inc., in Elmhurst, IL. A former research taxonomist for 22 years with the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL, he is co-author of the definitive text *Plants of the Chicago Region*. He also developed the "Floristic Quality Assessment" methodology, a quantitative technique for determining the natural quality of plant communities that has been widely adopted in the scientific community.



*"You have made a great contribution to the field through your conferences"*

Leslie Sauer, Andropogon Associates