

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

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Nature's Unseen Influences and the Art of Garden Design

17TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

New Directions in the American Landscape

CEU's available for Landscape Architects and Designers



Garden design is often perceived as a visual art form; but unlike a painting on a wall, landscape gardens are profoundly affected by an ever-present undercurrent of natural processes, minute organisms and subtle visual patterns. By considering and understanding these unseen elements, landscape practitioners can enhance the functionality and manageability of their projects, and increase the effectiveness of their gardens as naturally inspired works of art.

Sponsored By:

The 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 11, 2007

Day 2: Friday, January 12, 2007

PA: Arboretum Villanova
Villanova, PA

Day 1: Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Day 2: Wednesday, February 7, 2007

DAY 1

ZOOMING IN ON THE LANDSCAPE

What is a Healthy Ecosystem, What Makes it Sustainable, and Why Should Designers Care? (1 hr.)

Thomas K. Wessels, M.A.

Mr. Wessels will discuss the ecological laws of self-organization, a process that fosters increasing levels of integration, stability and efficiency in all biological organisms. He will use observable examples in our native ecosystems to illustrate how the use of these systems can also foster integration, stability and efficiency in the designed landscape garden.

Predictive Site Analysis and the Unfolding Landscape Garden

Part 1 - A Scientific Approach (1.5 hr.)

Dr. Nels Barrett

Part 2 - An Artistic Approach (1.5 hr.)

Darrel Morrison, FASLA

What are the natural characteristics of a site? How will these patterns and compositions change over time? Can a designer use this knowledge to create a work of landscape art? In part one, field ecologist Nels Barrett will illustrate methods of ecological analysis with an eye toward predicting future vegetation change. He will conclude with an exercise that illustrates this analytical process on a specific sample site. In part two, we will follow landscape architect Darrel Morrison as he develops an artistic overlay for the same site that accommodates these changing ecological patterns.

Dragonflies: A Precise Approach to Habitat Creation in the Garden (1 hr.)

Christine Cook

Ms. Cook will offer a finely detailed examination of dragonflies and illustrate how these fascinating aerial acrobats fit into nature's critical balance. The presentation will depict how to create gardens that accommodate the habitat, life cycle, foraging, mating and ovipositing of these delicate yet tough insect predators. Her unique and comprehensive approach can provide a valuable template for designing habitats that attract a myriad of other insect and animal species.

Environmental Sculpture: Connecting Art and Environment (1 hr.)

Knox Cummin

Knox Cummin will walk you through the practice of making sculpture that responds to the surrounding environment. A variety of methods will be illustrated for choosing a site, learning the landscape, and determining its experiential essence. He will also show how small or large interventions can be used to evoke that essence, and reinforce the viewer's sense of wonder about the natural world.

Social Hour: Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres

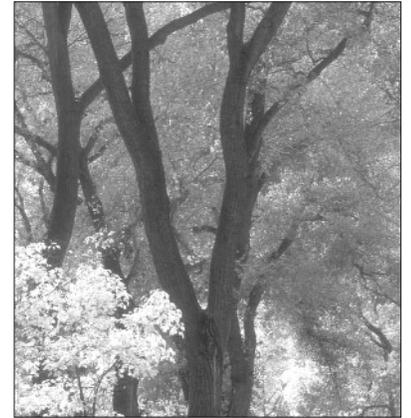
DAY 2

NATURAL PROCESSES AND INTERACTIONS

Forest Garden Development as a Process (1.5 hr.)

Dave Jacke

In this presentation Mr. Jacke will discuss the underlying principals of forest ecology, and the practical considerations of designing, planting and managing gardens in the forest. He will draw extensively from his two-volume book, which is possibly the most comprehensive work on the subject.



Meadow Development as a Process

Part 1 - Seeds and Germination (1.25 hr.)

Bill Carter

Part 2 - The Developmental Process (1.25 hr.)

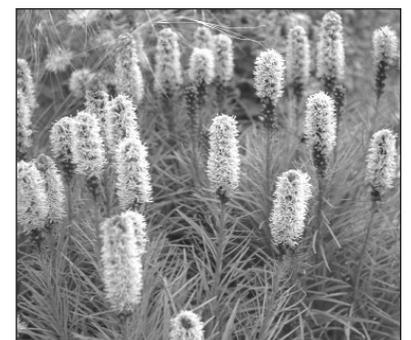
Jack Pizzo

The quantity of seed needed to plant a forty-acre meadow, which at maturity contains approximately 7 million cubic feet of vegetation, can fit in the bed of a small pickup truck. Exploring how this dynamic process unfolds, and the implications for successful meadow development, will be the focus of this two-part presentation.

Around the Corner: New Opportunities in a Changing Professional Environment (1 hr.)

Bill Carter, Jack Pizzo, Dave Jacke

This discussion will focus on the changes that are likely to occur among growers, designers, contractors and maintenance firms as the demand for an ecological approach and natural aesthetic increases, a process that is already well underway.



Creating Biodiversity in the Suburban Landscape (1 hr.)

Douglas Tallamy, PHD (PA only),

Lisa Tewksbury (CT only)

This presentation will explore the precise and complex relationships between specific native plants and the wildlife species that depend on them. The results of a recent study that compared wildlife colonization on native and traditionally landscaped suburban properties will also be discussed.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Nels Barrett is a field ecologist working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, based in Tolland, CT. Prior to joining NRCS he was a research ecologist with the University of Rhode Island's North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, conducting a Long-term Ecological Monitoring Program for the Cape Cod National Seashore. For many years he conducted ecological surveys in southern New England for State Heritage programs and The Nature Conservancy.

Bill Carter is Vice President and Co-owner of Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, Minnesota, one of the nation's leading producers of native plants and seeds. In this position he focuses on plant selection, seed mix formulation, production and client consultations. He also operates his own seed and bare root plant nursery, which focuses on unusual native species.

Christine Cook is a landscape designer and artist from Easton, CT, whose company, Mossaics, specializes in woodland and moss garden design. She is recognized as a leading authority on moss culture and has lectured extensively on the subject, including presentations at The New York Botanic Garden and The Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY.

Knox Cummin has shown his sculpture extensively in the Northeast U.S., nationally and internationally. He has been sculptor in residence at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, the Abington Art Center, and Riverbend Environmental Center outside of Philadelphia. In 1995 he co-founded the outdoor sculpture triennial, Spirit of Place.

Dave Jacke, a student of ecology and design since the 1970's, has run his own ecological design firm, Dynamic Ecological Design, since 1984. He has consulted on, designed, built, and planted landscapes, homes, farms, and communities in many parts of the United States and overseas. He is the primary author of *Edible Forest Gardens: Ecological Vision, Theory, and Practice for Temperate-Climate Permaculture*.

Darrel Morrison, FASLA, is Professor and Dean Emeritus in the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia. He currently lives in New York City, and in addition to lecturing and consulting, he teaches periodically at Rutgers University, Utah State University, and The Conway School of Landscape Design in Massachusetts. He is a long-time proponent of the use of native vegetation in designed landscapes and in creating designs that are both ecologically sound and aesthetically rich.

Jack Pizzo is a founding partner of Pizzo & Associates, Ltd., an Illinois-based firm that, through its dedication to the protection, restoration and creation of natural areas, has been involved in many ecological projects throughout the Midwest. Jack is a frequent lecturer and has published articles on creating and restoring natural areas. He is currently researching the effects of four treatments on the stand establishment of little bluestem.

Dr. Douglas Tallamy is a Behavioral Ecologist and Entomologist. He is currently a Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, and lectures frequently on the connections between native plant species and wildlife diversity in both wild landscapes and planted gardens.

Lisa Tewksbury has worked at the University of Rhode Island as a research associate in the Plant Sciences Department for the past 20 years and as manager of the Biological Control Lab, which conducts research on insect natural enemies of invasive insect and weed species, for the past 10 years. She has co-authored several articles on biological control, including one on *Phragmites australis*, Swallow-worts, and *Vincetoxicum* spp.

Thomas K. Wessels, MA, Tom Wessels is an ecologist and founding director of the master's degree program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. He is author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Granite Landscape*, *Untamed Vermont*, and his latest book *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*.

