

## NATURAL DESIGN: An Intensive Two-Day Workshop

**Demand for high performing**, ecology-based landscapes is increasing faster than the availability of the specialized knowledge needed to achieve them. This intensive, interactive, two-day workshop will provide concrete, real world guidance for designing and documenting all phases of native landscape development.

**Attendees will receive** an extensive manual that documents all aspects of the program, including plant selection criteria, plant recommendations, ecological process-based management specifications, and guidance for maximizing the aesthetic and experiential appeal these landscapes can provide.

For detailed program and registration information see [ndal.org/upcoming-ndal-events](http://ndal.org/upcoming-ndal-events)

**This 2-day course will be held in 5 different locations:**

**Mar. 7-8, 2019** | Atlanta, GA

*Cosponsored by Georgia Native Plant Society*

**Mar. 12-13, 2019** | Boylston, MA

*Cosponsored by Tower Hill Botanic Garden*

**Mar. 19-20, 2019** | Cornwall, NY

*Cosponsored by The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX*

**Mar. 26-27, 2019** | Chadds Ford, PA

*Cosponsored by Brandywine Conservancy*

**Apr. 2-3, 2019** | Riverwoods, IL

*Cosponsored by Wild Ones Institute of Learning and Development*



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

— LESLIE SAUER, *Founding Principal (Retired), Andropogon Associates, Philadelphia, PA*



*Darrel Morrison and Nancy Aten designing to music at 2014 NDAL Symposium*

### New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)

NDAL provides educational programming for the advancement of ecology-based landscape design, implementation and management. Founded in 1990 by landscape designer Larry Weaner, programs have been presented throughout the U.S., and have focused on innovative theory, practical application, and an expansive vision of 'Natural Design'. In addition to its core focus on landscape design and the ecological sciences, programs have drawn from a variety of additional disciplines, including agriculture, anthropology, landscape history, and fine art.

**In 2016, NDAL received the first Regional Impact Award from the New England Wildflower Society.**



CEUs Available

# DAY 1 | DESIGN TECHNIQUES AND PLANT SELECTION

Instructors: Larry Weaner FALPD, Ethan Dropkin, MLA (MA, NY, & PA only), Ian Caton, LD (GA & IL only)

## Foundations of Native Design (2 hrs)

Our opening presentation will examine those characteristics of spontaneous plant communities with particular relevance to ecology-based landscape design. Ecological processes will be explored, including disturbance, competition, landscape pattern, ecological succession, and relative ecological stability, as well as individual species traits like habitat fidelity, growth pattern, spatial and temporal niche, and proliferation strategy. We will conclude by connecting these science-based concepts to a series of concrete design protocols.

Part 1: Core Ecological Principles

Part 2: Ecology-Based Design

## Meadows and Grasslands (1.5 hrs)

While meadows are in high demand, effective protocols for designing them are in short supply. Here we will delve into the nitty gritty of meadow design: site analysis, species selection, seed mix formulation, and the integration of live plants. Guidance will also be provided for layout and composition of paths and openings, transition zones where turf meets meadow or meadow meets wild edges, and 'altered meadow' approaches that accommodate "not so wild" client preferences.

Part 1: Design Principles

Part 2: Plants



This was, without doubt, the most interesting and informative seminar on native plants and natural processes that I've ever attended.

-PAST WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

## Shrublands and Old Fields (1 hr)

To the wildlife ecologist, a patchwork of meadow, forest, and shrubland is the ideal landscape mosaic. In landscape design, however, the shrub part of that patchwork is usually omitted, leaving both ecological and aesthetic potential untapped. On the micro level we will discuss plant arrangement and spacing, including differing approaches for clonal and clump forming species. On the macro level we will illustrate the use of shrublands as a 'connective tissue' between meadow and woods.

Part 1: Design Principles

Part 2: Plants

## Woodlands and Hedgerows (1.5 hrs)

Establishing or affecting a tree canopy and its associated layers requires the design of a process as much as a planting plan. Guided succession can foster the orderly transformation from an open field to a multi-tiered forest through planting, managed natural recruitment, or a combination of the two. In existing woods, combining live plantings of woodland herbs with a plan to assist the dispersal of their seeds can turn an isolated garden into an expansive ground layer. Along with a detailed discussion of these and other key approaches, we will describe those few woodland herbs that can be seeded directly into the landscape, including important new information on the viability of planting woodland sedges from seed.

Part 1: Design Principles

Part 2: Plants

**Registration and Continental Breakfast - 8:30 AM**

**Program begins at 9 AM, adjourns at 4:30 PM**

**Lunch and snacks will be provided**

# DAY 2 | PLANTING, MANAGEMENT, AND DOCUMENTATION

Instructors: Larry Weaner, FALPD, Andrew Korzon, PLA (GA, NY, PA, & IL only), Rebecca Kagle, MLA (MA only)

## Documenting Planting and Management Procedures (3 hrs)

Many ecology-based field techniques run counter to traditional practice and are unfamiliar to even highly experienced contractors. Consequently, it is crucial for designers to not only understand these techniques, but provide precise specifications for their execution. Important field techniques such as phased planting, timed mowing, selective height mowing, sunlight manipulation, assisted seed dispersal, and others will be described in detail. We will also discuss organizational formats for creating written specifications that distinguish between short-term and long-term management procedures, and balance the need for both detail and usability.

Part 1: Understanding the Techniques

Part 2: Creating the Specifications

## Communicating the Vision and the Reality (1 hr)

Natural landscapes can range from 'wall to wall wild', to 'wild capsules' within a highly defined formal landscape. Determining your clients' comfort level within that spectrum early on will increase both design efficiency and enthusiasm for the built landscape. Accurately conveying the visual character, development time, and management requirements during the design process is also crucial. Finally, providing insight into the intellectual rationales for your decisions will convey to the client that 'wild landscaping' is not a random assortment of native plants, but a carefully considered endeavor. This final presentation will explore these points and provide time for class participants to share their thoughts, experiences, and expectations going forward.



## The Artistic Thread (2 hrs)

Natural design does not eliminate the need for good design. One approach is to 'celebrate wildness'. Through the careful study and incorporation of nature's vegetative patterns, we can more accurately 'reveal' the inherent order, balance, and beauty of those patterns. Another approach 'ameliorates wildness' by employing specific techniques that increase landscape legibility and convey human intent. Repeating plant compositions along pathways and at stopping points; the judicious use of horticultural cultivars; and introducing constructed or formal elements across vegetation types can all be employed to this end. These ideas and more will be illustrated by analyzing a number of designed plant compositions ranging from expansive landscape panoramas to intimate garden vignettes.

**Registration and Continental Breakfast – 8:30 AM**

**Program begins at 9 AM, adjourns at 4:30 PM**

**Lunch and snacks will be provided**



Very dynamic, very knowledgeable, truly a wealth to digest. Thank you for sharing all this experience—I think it's essential to the landscape trade to think and act ecologically. Bravo!

- PAST WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

# INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES



**Ian Caton, LD** worked for LWLA from 2001 to 2013 and now serves as a project consultant for the firm. Highly knowledgeable about native plants and their incorporation into the human environment, Ian has designed and installed landscapes for a wide range of residential, commercial, and public settings. Prior speaking engagements include the Irvine Native Plant Symposium and events at the New York Botanical Garden and Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. Ian has a BS in Ornamental Horticulture and Environmental Design from Delaware Valley College.



**Ethan Dropkin, MLA**, landscape designer at LWLA, has an extensive and in depth understanding of native plants. He has been involved with several private residence designs, and the creation of seed and live plant lists for the Fredericksburg Riverfront Park in Fredericksburg; and Riverwalk Park in Tarrytown, NY. Prior to joining LWLA, Ethan worked as a designer at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, as a horticultural designer and technician for Cornell University, and as a horticulturalist for the New York City Parks Department. Ethan has a BA in Secondary Education from the University of Vermont, a MA in Landscape Architecture and a MPS in Horticulture from Cornell University.



**Rebecca Kagle, MLA**, associate ASLA, is studio director at LWLA and has worked there since 2008. In 2010 she completed a BA in landscape architecture at Temple University and received both the PA/DE ASLA Travel Award and an ASLA Merit award for her design work. Prior to joining LWLA, Rebecca worked for Wave Hill and Prospect Park in New York City and the Lakeshore Nature Preserve at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, designing and implementing woodland and shoreline restoration projects. At LWLA she has been involved with master plans for residential and public projects. She received a BA from Haverford College and Masters in Restoration Ecology from the University of Wisconsin.



**Andrew Korzon, PLA**, joined LWLA in 2017 and serves as installation project manager, overseeing implementation of LWLA designs and managing long-term maintenance for residential, commercial, and institutional clients. Prior to joining LWLA, he served as a project manager for the design/build firm LandStudies, Inc. in Lititz, PA. In 2010 he completed his BS in Landscape Architecture from Temple University. Andy is a licensed landscape architect in Pennsylvania and New York.



**Larry Weaner, FALPD**, president and founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA), established New Directions in the American Landscape in 1990. He is nationally recognized for combining expertise in horticulture, landscape design, and ecological restoration. His book *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* (2016) received an American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2017.

*Photo by Kim Sokoloff*

## Fees (full 2-day attendance)

**\$495** – Early Bird Rate (registration received at least two weeks before event)

**\$510** – Regular Rate

**\$300** – Student rate (must present a current ID at event)

Registration includes course packet, continental breakfast, lunch, and break refreshments.

## Anticipated CEU Credits

ASLA (6 per day), APLD (6 per day), NOFA (4 total),

PA Certified Horticulturist (6 per day)



## REGISTRATION

### Mail in registration

Print and mail form, addressed to:

New Directions in the American Landscape  
2920 Mt. Carmel Ave.  
Glenside, PA 19038

### Online registration

Visit: [ndal.org/upcoming-ndal-events](http://ndal.org/upcoming-ndal-events)

### Email registration

Complete form and email as attachment to:

Sara Weaner, NDAL Executive Director  
[sweaner@ndal.org](mailto:sweaner@ndal.org)

### Call in registration

Call: Sara Weaner, NDAL Executive Director  
510-518-0430

## MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

Please print clearly:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Dates & Locations (indicate which you will attend)

Mar. 7-8, 2019 | Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta, GA

Mar. 12-13, 2019 | Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA

Mar. 19-20, 2019 | Black Rock Forest Consortium, Cornwall, NY

Mar. 26-27, 2019 | Brandywine Conservancy, Chadds Ford, PA

Apr. 2-3, 2019 | Ryerson Welcome Center, Riverwoods, IL

\_\_\_\_ Early Bird Rate (registration received at least two weeks before event) \$495

\_\_\_\_ Regular Rate \$510

\_\_\_\_ Student Rate \$300

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian lunch      Vegan lunch

Gluten-free lunch

For payment by credit card please call or use the secure online registration option.

Registration will be refunded only if notification is received no later than seven (7) working days prior to the event less a \$20 processing fee.