



Photo: Mark Weaner

Guiding Theory into Reality:

It Don't Mean a Thing if the Landscape Don't Sing

New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) Symposium

Incorporating science into landscape design is of little use if the resulting plantings are not harmonious to the people who engage with them, and are not in tune with the animals that depend on them. In this virtual symposium we will explore how scientific research can lead to tangible approaches for a new landscape tradition, one where ecological, anthropological, and sociological considerations expand the scope of landscape design.

This program is geared toward the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions.

CEUs Available

January 21–22, 2021 1-4:30pm EST

January 28–29, 2021 9am-12:30pm EST



Photo: Piet Oudolf

Sponsored By:



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New Directions in the American Landscape
Developed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

Planting and Management: Where Theory Meets the Real World (3 hours)

Orientation & introduction – 1 PM EST
First speaker begins at 1:15 PM EST

Reconstructing Tallgrass Prairie and Meadow in Urban and Suburban Spaces: Two Case Studies

Scott Woodbury
Laurel Harrington
Tallgrass prairie reconstruction from seed on damaged urban and suburban soil is a practice poorly understood by most landscape personnel. A seeding specification can lay out a blueprint for planning, site preparation, installation and maintenance, but it is dependent on an engaged and informed team of people, from leaders to weeders. Seeded landscapes are so complex that simple mistakes can be made that result in significant setbacks or failure. This session will focus on how to plan, implement, and manage successful commercial seeded projects.

Conversation and Q&A

Larry Weaner
Scott Woodbury
Laurel Harrington
Larry Weaner will introduce the concept of “Designing for Management,” and join the previous presenters to conversationally compare notes over a broad array of landscape types and scales, from restoration to residential. The session will conclude with questions from attendees.

Adjourn at 4:30 PM EST



Ecological Analysis to Planted Landscape to Architecture (3 hours)

Orientation & introduction – 1 PM EST
First speaker begins at 1:15 PM EST

Seeing the Trees for the Forest: Conservation of Oak Ecosystems

Dr. Patrick Keyser
Despite their vast extent and impressive appearance, today’s oak forest ecosystems are not healthy. Age classes are not balanced, understories have been severely impacted by white-tailed deer, regeneration of desirable overstory species is almost non-existent, non-native pests are proliferating, and key ecosystem elements are missing. Restoration of ecological health to these systems requires intervention. One of the primary tools required for healthy oak forests is fire. The natural role of fire and conservation strategies will be discussed.

Farming for Biodiversity

Dr. Amy Johnson
Eastern grasslands are one of our most important ecosystems for supporting human livelihoods, they support our livestock, they grow our food, and they store vast amounts of carbon. They are also home to a surprising number of threatened species. So, how can we manage grasslands for the benefit of both people and biodiversity? This presentation will share science-based management insights and demonstrate how landowners can integrate biodiversity conservation with agriculture.

Catskills Flora Inspires a New Education Center for Mountain Top Arboretum

Jamie Purinton
Marc Wolf
Take a tour of the Catskill Mountains native plants that inspired the Arboretum’s new Education Center. The building is timber frame and features 21 species of trees harvested from the Arboretum’s 160-acre forest. The landscape not only includes a series of six interconnected rain gardens and an alternative lawn, but also addresses functional needs for parking and Arboretum maintenance. Learn about making rain gardens, and structuring a collaborative design and implementation process.

Adjourn at 4:30 PM EST

Embracing Cultures in Landscape Design (3 hours)

Orientation & introduction – 9 AM EST
First speaker begins at 9:15 AM EST

Migrant Landscapes: The Evolving Life of America’s Terrain

Wambui Ippolito
America’s landscape is radically altered with each new immigrant wave that breaks onto its shores. True environmental stewardship in the Anthropocene will occur when architects, gardeners, and designers view themselves, their plants, and their work as migrants moving across space and time in an evolving American landscape.

Plants, People, and Places: Using Design Thinking to Build Anthropological and Ecological Resilience in Landscape Architecture

Diana Fernandez
Andrew Sell
Building upon principles rooted in landscape ecology, landscape heterogeneity presents an opportunity to embrace the concept of difference to build resilient and community-focused landscapes. This dialogue exposes the interconnected relationship between ecology and the anthropological sciences. From the design of a public landscape to commemorate Black culture, to increasing ecological complexity in urban and suburban systems through planting, landscape heterogeneity creates a platform for change within the doctrine and practice of designing landscapes.

Conversation and Q&A

Wambui Ippolito
Diana Fernandez
Andrew Sell
The day’s presenters will explore the place of personal and cultural history in public and residential landscape design from both the designer’s and client’s perspectives. They will also take questions from attendees.

Adjourn at 12:30 PM EST

Where Ecology Meets Art (3 hours)

Orientation & introduction – 9 AM EST
First speaker begins at 9:15 AM EST

City Landscapes: Public Space Touches Nature

Piet Oudolf
Expressing nature’s outward form is what we call “naturalistic”, but incorporating nature’s intricate patterns, textures and processes can provide designers with even deeper sources of inspiration. In this presentation landscape design icon Piet Oudolf will discuss how he translates ecological principles to highly artistic gardens on the human scale, and how those landscapes transform over time.

Conversation and Q&A

Claudia West
Piet Oudolf
Larry Weaner
Planting designer Claudia West will initiate the conversation by emphasizing the importance of ongoing dialogue between designers when considering the roles of ecology and art in their planning and collaboration processes. She then will join Larry and Piet to compare notes on their extensive experience in naturalistic garden creation. Questions from attendees are encouraged and will be folded into the conversation.

How Ecological Research Can Nourish the Art of Garden Design

Larry Weaner
Ecological research is commonly performed relating to the plant characteristics, species interactions, and vegetative trajectories of native plants and plant communities in the wild. The data that results can be of tremendous value to designers who seek to bring native plants and ecological processes into their art. Larry will draw a direct line from research to garden by examining a series of designed landscapes that were significantly influenced by specific ecological research.

Adjourn at 12:30 PM EST

Speakers

Diana Fernandez, ASLA, PLA is Landscape Architect with Sasaki. Diana partners with architects, planners, urban designers, ecologists and civil engineers on the design of equitable and sustainable places. Her experience spans a broad range of projects from planning to built work. Prior to joining Sasaki, Diana worked as a landscape architect and project designer in Philadelphia where she worked on urban and campus projects in the metro area.

Laurel Harrington, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP BD+C is a licensed landscape architect at Christner, Inc. with more than 28 years of experience in campus development, urban design, and redevelopment planning. Laurel is the Vice President for Emerging Professionals for the St. Louis Chapter ASLA and on the St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers Diversity Committee. She has written award-winning master plans and has been a presenter at national and regional conferences.

Wambui Ippolito brings a wealth of design and business managerial skills to Jane Gil Design. She graduated from the New York Botanical Garden’s School of Professional Horticulture. She has worked at Martha Stewart’s home in Bedford, New York, and at David Letterman’s estate and manages a roster of private clients, including business, media, music, and sports moguls. She is the daughter of diplomat parents and traveled extensively, living and gaining her education in different locales around the world.

Dr. Amy Johnson is a conservation biologist and Director of Smithsonian’s Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL). In this role, Amy leads a team that cultivates a dynamic network of private landowners, citizen scientists, NGO’s, state agencies and scientists to collectively investigate the impacts of conservation management and land use on biodiversity. Amy’s current research focuses on studying the responses of grassland bird communities to conservation practices.

Dr. Patrick Keyser is Professor and Director of the Center for Native Grasslands at the University of Tennessee. He leads research on management of native grasslands across the eastern US including in working lands settings (pastures, biofuels) and in woodlands and savannahs. He has authored numerous papers in scientific journals, extension articles, and the popular and trade press and was the lead editor and co-author of the book, *Managing Oak Forests in the Eastern United States* (2016).

Piet Oudolf has revolutionized the way perennial gardens are designed and viewed in landscapes today. With a new planting style and meticulous attention to the plants, Oudolf has forged the ability to break the rules when his eye finds it necessary to do so. Since 1982, he has lived and worked in Hummelo, in east Netherlands, where he started a perennial nursery with his wife Anja. Some of Oudolf’s most influential works in the United States include the perennial plantings at Battery Park, The Highline perennial plantings, and Goldman Sachs headquarters.

Jamie Purinton, RLA has been a teacher, private practitioner, and writer in the field of landscape architecture for the last 35 years. Her Hudson Valley-based practice, Jamie Purinton Landscape Architecture, focuses on sustainable design, minimizing our impact on the land, and collaborating with clients and contractors making distinct, meaningful and vital landscapes. She co-authored *Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories* (1998).

Andrew Sell, MLA is Landscape Ecologist and Designer with Sasaki. Andrew is a seasoned plantsman and designer with domestic and international project experience in horticulture, ecological restoration, public garden administration, and

landscape architecture. As a former park ranger, he’s committed to connecting people to the urban and suburban environment through experiential design and education. At Sasaki, Andrew focuses on translating landscape research and ecological concepts into physical form.

Larry Weaner FAPLD, president and founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, established New Directions in the American Landscape in 1990. He is nationally recognized for combining expertise in horticulture, landscape design, and ecological restoration, and has worked in over 20 U.S. states and the UK. His book *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* (2016) received an American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2017.

Claudia West is a leading voice known for her passionate advocacy of plant-driven design. She is a widely sought after speaker and consultant who applies the technologies of plant systems to bring essential natural functions back into our cities and towns. She has worked on all sides of the green industry—as a designer, a grower, installer, and land manager—grounding her innovative work in pragmatic solutions that address the realities of our urbanizing world. She is the co-author of the critically acclaimed book, *Planting in a Post-Wild World* (2015).

Marc Wolf joined Mountain Top Arboretum in 2016 as Director of Horticulture and became Executive Director in 2017. Marc studied with the noted landscape architect Darrel Morrison and worked as his field assistant on projects at New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and for private clients. He received his BA from Williams College, is a graduate of New York Botanical Garden’s School of Professional Horticulture, and interned at Chanticleer Garden. As a writer and performer working in theater, film, and television, Marc received OBIE and National Endowment for the Arts Awards.

Scott Woodbury is manager of the Whitmire Wildflower Garden at Shaw Nature Reserve, and has been developing the garden there for 29 years. Scott teaches native landscape practices for the Native Plant School, Grow Native!, St. Louis Master Gardeners and St. Louis Community College. He is a regular speaker, writer and consultant on native landscaping throughout the region. Scott has worked at various public gardens including Old Westbury Gardens in New York, Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, Castello Di Uzzano in Italy, and Tudor Place in Washington, D.C.

Comments from 2020 Conference Attendees

“Highlight of my winter—it’s the tangible beginning of the landscape season charging us with enthusiasm and expanding the breadth of our knowledge base!”

“The scope and knowledge of the speakers was impressive.”

“I really like the mix and diversity of science, sociology, and design. Keep doing what you’re doing.”

Registration

Registration Fees

Regular Rate:

Full Bundle, Modules 1-4 | \$180 if received by Dec. 16, 2020

Full Bundle, Modules 1-4 | \$200 if received after Dec. 16, 2020

Individual Modules | \$50 per day if received by Dec. 16, 2020

Individual Modules | \$60 per day if received after Dec. 16, 2020

Student Rate*:

Full Bundle, Modules 1-4 | \$100 if received by Dec. 16, 2020

Full Bundle, Modules 1-4 | \$125 if received after Dec. 16, 2020

Individual Modules | \$25 per day if received by Dec. 16, 2020

Individual Modules | \$32 per day if received after Dec. 16, 2020

**Please send proof of student status including a current date (i.e. course schedule, student ID card) to info@ndal.org to receive a coupon for the student rate.*

Student Scholarship – Free Conference Admission

Students and recent graduates are invited to apply for scholarships granting free admission to the symposium. Four scholarships will be awarded. The scholarships honor Darrell Morrison, FASLA, Senior Honorary Faculty Associate, University of Wisconsin—Madison Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, and Glenn Dreyer, Connecticut College Arboretum Director Emeritus. For application information, visit NDAL.org.

Eligibility: Current student or matriculation in 2020. Application deadline: Dec. 2, 2020. Applicants will be notified by Dec. 6 so that anyone who is not selected has time to register for early-bird admission.

Registration

Create an account on NDAL’s new [Course Portal](#) in order to register for the symposium. This account will give you exclusive access to the session recordings and course materials. These materials will be available until three (3) months after the live session ends.

Registration will be refunded only if notification is received ten (10) working days prior to the event less a \$10 processing fee.



Photo: Piet Oudolf