

Ecological Complexity in Landscapes for People
Thursday, January 11, 2018
Day One

8:15 a.m.—Registration and Continental Breakfast

9 a.m.—Welcome

9:10 a.m.--Rediscovering a Lost Landscape: The (Re)Construction of a Piedmont Prairie
Stefan Bloodworth--The southeastern Piedmont prairie sadly now exists only as scattered remnants. Learn how a team at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens designed and constructed a one-acre simulation, how they produced more than 16,000 plants representing almost 100 species grown using locally collected seed, and what they're learning from subsequent monitoring.

10:25 a.m.—Break

10:45 a.m.--A Model for Botanic Gardens: Celebrating Local Plant Communities
Gregg Tepper--Get a behind-the-scenes look at the new Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek, a place-based garden celebrating the plant communities of the Delmarva coastal plain. From its 12-acre habitat-based woodland garden to its Piet Oudolf designed meadow, the gardens seek to delight and educate visitors and inspire them to preserve Delmarva's native landscapes.

11:45 a.m.--Overlooked Aspects of Plant Community Based Design
Heidi Natura--Using case studies from diverse projects, this session explores important but seldom-considered aspects of designing with native plants based on community models. Learn how attention to root morphology, species layering, and species competitiveness, as well as aesthetics, can maximize design outcomes and long-term performance.

12:45 p.m.--Lunch

2:00 p.m. Management, Not Maintenance: a Panel – *Stefan Bloodworth, Heidi Natura, Gregg Tepper, and Larry Weaner*--In plant community-based designs, we don't maintain static plant compositions—we manage evolving living systems. How should our designs anticipate that approach and how is this best communicated to clients and contractors? Discuss these and other key issues with panelists.

2:45 p.m.-- OLIN Experiments with New Tools for Integrating Plant Ecology into Planting Design and Documentation—*Yuan Fan, Chris Landau, and Judy Venonsky*--Ecology is complex, and accounting for the variables in planting design can be tricky. To translate this complexity into executable planting designs, the landscape architecture firm OLIN is experimenting with modeling software and other tools. Learn how use of data, analysis, parametric modeling, agent-based modeling, and visualization combined with current ecological knowledge can achieve a more intuitive approach to design.

3:45 p.m.—Break

4:00 p.m.--Pioneering Higher Ground: Designing Native Rooftop Plantings

Laura Hansplant--Why do volunteer native species sometimes colonize green roofs while plantings of those same species often fail? This session demonstrates alternative design approaches based on study of native plant community dynamics in comparable thin-soil environments and extensive tracking of plant performance at pilot green roof projects.

5:00 p.m.--Evening reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Book signing with Larry Weaner.

Friday, January 12, 2018

Day Two

8:30 a.m.—Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m.--Drawing from the Experiential Qualities of Wild Landscapes

Toby Wolf-- Naturally occurring landscapes can offer inspiration that goes beyond their structure and species composition. Landscape architect Toby Wolf demonstrates how the experiential qualities of wild places can be translated into designed landscapes—urban or suburban, large or small, planted or paved—that feel authentic, immediate, and alive.

10:00 a.m.—Break

10:20 a.m. Managing Expectations in a Changing Landscape

John Magee--The advent of more ‘naturalistic’ plantings requires clients, contractors, and designers understand how that vision is implemented and how it evolves over time. Learn how client and contractor expectations were managed on native design projects where effective communication played a significant role.

11:20 a.m.--Big Ecology in Small Landscapes: a Panel (¾ hr.) –*John Magee, Larry Weaner, and Toby Wolf*--Many designers work primarily at small residences. How do we distill larger ecological patterns and processes to this scale and what lessons might this have for projects at larger scales? Explore these and other questions with panelists.

12:05 p.m.—Lunch

1:15 p.m.--Design Adaptations for Today’s Realities: Lessons from the Southern Highlands Reserve

--*Kelly Holdbrooks*--How do you maintain a design’s original vision while dealing with issues not anticipated in the original plan? When do you consider altering the design? See how North Carolina’s Southern Highlands Reserve, a native plant arboretum and research center with gardens designed by W. Gary Smith, is using creative, adaptive solutions to address water mitigation and other climate-change related challenges.

2:15 p.m.--Designing Productive Landscapes: Agriculture and Ecology

Phoebe Lickwar--From fruit orchards to vegetable gardens to gentleman farms, food production has a long, rich history in landscape design. Using contemporary examples, landscape architect Phoebe Lickwar discusses the benefits and dilemmas of engaging agricultural productivity as a design strategy. Her presentation features diverse case studies showing how crop agriculture can be creatively combined with ecological restoration and clients' aesthetic and functional expectations.

3:15 p.m.—Break

3:30 p.m.--Hybrid Vigor: Art x Design x Ecology--*David Buckley Borden*

Our biggest environmental challenge is not rooted in ecology, but in culture. Without a shared ecological awareness, sustainable, environmentally-sensitive practice remains out of reach. This session presents work by an interdisciplinary artist and designer who is using unique landscape-based projects to communicate ecology through accessible, often humorous hybrids of science, art, and design.

4:45 p.m.--Adjourn