

Program
of
Events

A Native Plants:

Insight
to Action
3.20.21

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Schedule

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9:30		Welcome and Introductions Richard Olsen, Director, U.S. National Arboretum Joan Feely, Fern Valley Native Plant Collection, USNA Piper Zettel, Web host and Education Specialist, USNA
9:45		Managing Threats to Native Ecosystems Bernd Blossey
10:45		Break
10:55		Growing Plants Unpalatable to Deer—It is Possible! Ruth Clausen
11:55		Break
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	Designing Beautiful and Ecologically Sound Gardens Stan Kollar
12:05		Earth, Air, Fire and Water—Elements of Ecological Restoration Deborah Barber
		Design Reboot: Tour the Arboretum’s Newest Native-Rich Garden Chris von Kohn
1:05		Eat and Greet Lunch break and optional live chat with other participants
1:50		An Entomologist’s Prescription for Building Sustainable Landscapes Mike Raupp
3:00		Adjourn

9:45

Managing Threats to Native Ecosystems — Surprising Insights and Answers

Bernd
Blossey

We are all too familiar with the overwhelming challenges of managing and conserving North America's diverse native ecosystems— habitat destruction, climate change and invasive species. Knowing how best to tackle these issues is not always clear, especially if we lack data-driven information. Bernd Blossey shares the results of two decades of his search for answers and explores what his findings reveal about the dynamics of plant invasions and the factors that intensify their impact. He will bust myths and propose solutions that may surprise you.

Bernd Blossey was born and raised in northern Germany, where he earned degrees in ecology, entomology and limnology, leading to a PhD focused on developing biocontrol for purple loosestrife. Now an Associate Professor in Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources, he continues to develop biological weed control programs, targeting *Phragmites*, Japanese knotweeds and water chestnut. His research team increasingly focuses on innovative assessments of how invasive plants, earthworms and deer impact native plant populations and wildlife.

10:55

Growing Plants Unpalatable to Deer —It is Possible!

Ruth
Clausen

Deer are the bane of twenty-first century gardeners. What can you do to protect your garden from these plant pillagers besides build a fence or apply often unreliable malodorous chemicals? During more than four decades of teaching, writing and lecturing about perennials, Ruth Clausen has developed invaluable expertise about plants unpalatable to deer. She offers dozens of stunning native plant choices for your garden based on her bestselling *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants* and the recently published book, *Deer-Resistant Native Plants for the Northeast*, co-authored with horticulturist Greg Tepper. Ruth will also give us an insider's look at how native plants are transforming the newly opened Delaware Botanic Garden at Pepper Creek in Dagsboro, Delaware.

Ruth Rogers Clausen studied horticulture in her native England before earning a master's degree in botany at Kent State University. In 1989, she co-authored the influential and award-winning *Perennials for American Gardens*. Formerly Horticulture Editor for *Country Living Gardener* magazine, Ruth won the Garden Media Award from the Perennial Plant Association in 2017. She recently served on the Board of Directors at the Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek and continues to write and lecture on topics relevant to 21st century gardeners.

12:05

Designing Beautiful and Ecologically Sound Gardens

Stan
Kollar

Biological data from our area and around the world indicate that plant species, birds, mammals, fish, insects and other invertebrates are all in serious decline and that we are at a precipice of historic dimension. Stan Kollar, a life-long environmentalist and native plant grower, shows us how our gardens and properties can become refugia for species both common and in decline. He highlights plants appropriate for a variety of situations, from woodlands, meadows and bogs to rain gardens and bioswales. Discover how to beautify your garden with native plants that mitigate the loss of habitat and conserve biodiversity.

Stan Kollar and his wife Sharon have operated Kollar Nursery in Pylesville, Maryland, specializing in native plants, since 1985. Stan was Professor of Biology at Harford Community College for many years, where he taught botany, biology and ecology classes. His work has also included landscape design, wetland restoration, water quality improvement, forest conservation, and the restoration of submerged aquatic plants (SAV) in the Chesapeake Bay. An accomplished photographer, Stan has traveled throughout every state and abroad to 13 countries.

12:05

Earth, Air, Fire and Water— Elements of Ecological Restoration

Deborah
Barber

The Nature Conservancy's approach to ecological management seeks to enhance the resilience of our natural systems in an increasingly harsh and uncertain future. From restoring red spruce to the Appalachian forest to returning Atlantic white cedars to the coastal plain, Deborah Barber shares how she and her team employ a targeted palette of management tools, including invasive species control, prescribed fires, hydrological restoration, and native tree, shrub and grass plantings to preserve and restore healthy ecosystems.

Deborah Barber is Director of Land Management for the Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. She leads the team responsible for ecological management of 24,000 acres on the 31 preserves owned by the chapter and works with the sustainable timber harvest program on 9,000 acres of pine forest in Worcester and Wicomico counties, Maryland. In her free time, she cares for the Virginia native plant garden that surrounds the Lyon Park Community Center in Arlington, VA.

12:05

Design Reboot: Tour the Arboretum's Newest Native-Rich Gardens

Chris
von Kohn

The redesign of the Arboretum's Friendship Garden was undertaken by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer of Phyto Studio, authors of *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, with support from National Garden Clubs, Inc. Starting in May 2019, staff and dozens of volunteers installed 17,000 plants in the largely native landscape. Take a virtual tour of the new garden with Chris von Kohn and see firsthand how the design incorporates the principles described in *Post-Wild World* – establishing vertical layers of plants and using compatible species to create resilient plant communities for year-round beauty and ecological services.

Chris von Kohn has been curator of the U.S. National Arboretum's National Boxwood and Perennial Collection since 2016 and its Friendship Garden since 2018. He previously worked in the Arboretum's research unit studying the genetic diversity of *Magnolia ashei* to help develop a species conservation plan. Originally from Texas, Chris completed a master's degree in plant breeding and genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

1:50

An Entomologist's Prescription for Building Sustainable Landscapes

Mike
Raupp

Insects play an important role in the sustainability of our managed landscapes, but their ability to persist and thrive is threatened by our plant selections, the physical alterations we make to the environment, and the climate change we exacerbate. Mike Raupp will show how arthropod populations reflect the positive and negative impacts of our landscape decisions. He will then share actionable steps to increase biodiversity, enhance resources for pollinators and other beneficial insects, reduce impacts of an overreliance on pesticides and fertilizer, and incorporate alternatives to impervious infrastructure.

Mike Raupp, University of Maryland Professor Emeritus, is perhaps best known for his "Bug of the Week" website and YouTube channel. He has appeared on the BBC, CNN, The Tonight Show, and Good Morning America to share his expertise on all things creepy-crawly, including ticks, 17-year cicadas, and stink bugs. An award-winning author, his most recent book, *26 Things that Bug Me*, introduces the wonders of insects and natural history to a young audience, while his *Managing Insects and Mites on Woody Landscape Plants* remains a standard reference for practitioners and home gardeners.

Information

CLICK TO REGISTER

The Lahr Symposium is going virtual in 2021. Our program will be presented via Zoom. We look forward to having a dynamic and interactive event with full audience and breakout sessions. Detailed instructions for Zoom access and links will be provided through the registration process.

Registration fee
\$75

Fee for FONA members
\$60

Registration will close on March 17, 2021. Refunds will not be issued after March 12th, 2021 unless the symposium is cancelled by the U.S. National Arboretum. The U.S. National Arboretum reserves the right to substitute instructors or cancel programs when necessary.

We thank all of our presenters and participants. Proceeds from the Lahr Symposium support the Lahr Internship in the Arboretum's Fern Valley Native Plant Collection.

For more information contact programs.usna@usda.gov or call 202 245 5898.

U.S. National Arboretum
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