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LAHR SYMPOSIUM  
U.S. National Arboretum  
3501 New York Ave. NE  
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Official Business

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At this year's Lahr Symposium  
learn how your landscape can  
make positive connections with  
the natural world.

MARCH 28, 2015  
U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

29TH ANNUAL LAHR SYMPOSIUM



NATIVE PLANTS: MAKING CONNECTIONS

# 29TH ANNUAL LAHR SYMPOSIUM

## NATIVE PLANTS: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Explore a variety of ways to use native plants that create positive connections with the natural world. From plantings that benefit our native pollinators, to techniques and materials used in developing beautiful and enduring landscape designs, information from this program will help you better understand our natural world, and how your landscape can make the connection.

### SPEAKERS

Ecologist **Dr. Nancy Adamson** works as a pollinator conservation specialist for the partnership of the Xerces Society and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Her work promotes habitat restoration that benefits pollinators and other beneficial insects on farm lands and in gardens in the Eastern U.S. Previous to her focus on pollinators she worked at Adkins Arboretum, the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, and conducted research involving the collection, inventory, and propagation of native plants for habitat restoration.

For over 30 years, **Ann Aldrich** worked for the Bureau of Land Management, planning and managing large landscapes on public lands. She then returned to academia and completed a Masters Degree in Sustainable Landscape Design at George Washington University. Currently, she is the Restoration Director of the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy where she is working in partnership with Rock Creek Park to restore the only remaining wildland garden of Beatrix Farrand, America's first female landscape architect.

**Wesley M. Knapp** has been a botanist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife and Heritage Service for the past 13 years. His research interests include grasses, sedges, and rushes, taxonomy, and morphology. Wesley is the author of various treatments of the rush family including his work for the new Gleason & Cronquist *Manual and the Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States*. His love of plants leads him to exploring, botanizing, blogging, teaching, and reviewing manuscripts for botanic journals.

**Lindsay Rohrbaugh** is a fish and wildlife biologist for the District Department of the Environment. She serves as the department's amphibian and reptile specialist as well as the mammal biologist. Lindsay works with species ranging

from frogs and snakes to flying squirrels and white-tailed deer. Her work and studies have nurtured a deep curiosity for wetland ecosystems and helped her develop a fondness for and expertise in the intricacies of amphibian habitats, including how water quality and native plant life nurture creatures that are vital to healthy ecosystems.

**Dr. Scott Warnke** is a research geneticist with the National Arboretum who is nationally recognized as an expert on turfgrass genetics and breeding research. His current work focuses on the genetic improvement of stress tolerance and reduced input sustainability in turfgrasses. He provided much of the scientific input for the Arboretum's new *Grass Roots Exhibit*, where you can see samples of the grasses he is working on.

**Larry Weaner** has been creating native landscapes since 1977, and his firm, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, has a national reputation for combining ecological restoration with garden design traditions. His firm's work has received numerous awards and been included on tours with The Garden Conservancy, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, and the American Horticultural Society. Larry lectures actively throughout the U.S., and in 1990, he founded a conference called New Directions in the American Landscape, which now has a national following.

**Carrie Wiles** is the Director of Marketing and Broker Relations at North Creek Nurseries, a wholesale propagation nursery with a strong emphasis on Eastern U.S. natives and their cultivars. She previously worked with the Organic Mechanics Potting Soil Company and the Delaware Center for Horticulture. Carrie holds a BS degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Pennsylvania State University. She has a strong interest in native habitat gardening and the role natives and non-natives play within the cultural landscape.



# SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS



**8:30 Registration and Early-bird Plant Sale**

**9:30 Welcome and Introduction**  
Joan Feely, U.S. National Arboretum

**9:40 Habitat Needs of Native Bees**

Our abundant harvests, natural lands, and gardens depend on bees and many other pollinators to thrive. The pollinators have needs, too: food throughout the growing season, nesting sites, and protection from pesticides. Join **Nancy Adamson** to learn about our diverse native bees, their habitat needs, and native plants you can grow to support them. See how providing pollinator habitat can be as simple as a flower pot on your front porch or as involved as restoring a native ecosystem.

**10:45 Refreshment Break**

**11:00 Morning Concurrent Sessions:**  
Choose one from A – D from the list at right

**12:00 Lunch and Plant Sale**

**1:15 Afternoon Concurrent Sessions:**  
Choose one from E – H from the list at right

**2:20 Natural Landscape Design: Studies in Success**

Using case studies, **Larry Weaner** will share the techniques and methods he uses for gracefully integrating native plant compositions and ecological processes into residential settings. Projects are presented from inception to maturity, providing a behind-the-scenes look at both practical and aesthetic considerations involved in creating and maintaining natural gardens. See how these gardens can reduce maintenance, improve the environment, and enhance the beauty of any residential property.

**3:30 Adjourn**

## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

**Morning: A Afternoon: E**

If visionary landscape architect Beatrix Farrand could return to her masterwork, Dumbarton Oaks, she would find 16 acres of formal gardens meticulously maintained, while her 27-acre wilderness garden would exhibit the destructive effects of uncontrolled storm water and rampant invasive plants. Learn from **Ann Aldridge** about the remarkable effort that has been launched to rescue the wild side of Dumbarton; how an innovative partnership has successfully restored sections of woodland and meadow; and how the next phase of meadow and stream restoration will be undertaken.

## Grasses and Sedges and Rushes, Oh My!

**Morning Only: B**

The sedges, grasses, and rushes represent three of our most ubiquitous yet challenging plant families. They are often overlooked or outright ignored by botanists and horticulturists alike, due to the difficulty of accurately identifying them. In this session, **Wes Knapp** will give you a useful overview of these three groups; compare and contrast their distinct features; and discuss a number of the common and rare species of this group that you may encounter in our area.

## Springtime Ephemerals of a More Cryptic Nature

**Morning: C Afternoon: G**

Many of us eagerly look for familiar signs of spring, but there are some signs we might not be aware of. What may look like standing water left after a long winter of rain and snow could actually be a vibrant vernal pool or seasonal wetland. In this session, visit a nearby vernal pool with **Lindsay Rohrbaugh** to observe one of these interesting and fragile ecosystems. Learn about the unique fauna that depends on them while looking for spring peepers and spotted salamanders.

## The Rich Potential of Poverty Grass

**Afternoon Only: F**

*Danthonia spicata* is a native cool-season grass often found growing under the shade of oak trees in the mid-Atlantic region. Commonly known as poverty oatgrass, its tolerance of shade and low-fertility soils are a few of the characteristics that suggest a rich potential for *Danthonia* to become a low-input sustainable turfgrass. Learn about *Danthonia*'s interesting life-cycle and about the research that **Scott Warnke** is conducting to help increase the prevalence of *Danthonia spicata* as a sustainable turf alternative.

## Hot Native Perennials for Cool Shade

**Morning: D Afternoon: H**

Native perennials are hot – and nowhere more sizzling than in the cool of the shade garden. North Creek Nurseries is at the forefront of bringing to market “new to horticulture” species and cultivars that work in our shaded landscapes. With **Carrie Wiles**, learn how new selections of native plants filter through North Creek's trial and evaluation process. And see how a blend of underused but reliable native varieties, promising new introductions, plus tried and true favorites, make a shaded garden that is both innovative and timely.

# FEATURES

- ◆ Nationally recognized speakers and local experts
- ◆ Early-bird admission to the Native Plant Sale-shop early and take advantage of our “plant-sitting” service.
- ◆ Early spring display in the gardens and collections
- ◆ Used garden book sale in lobby



## Friends of the National Arboretum Native Plant Sale

Opens to Lahr registrants at 8:30 am.

Opens to the public at 9:30 am.

Closes at 2:00 pm.

Many vendors accept cash and checks only.

**Plant Sale proceeds support the  
Fern Valley Native Plant Collection**

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The National Arboretum is easily accessible from Routes 295, 495, and 50. For complete driving directions from all surrounding areas, please see our website at:  
[www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov).

There are two gates, one on New York Avenue (Route 50 East) and one at 24th and R Street NE, off of Bladensburg Rd. We strongly recommend using the R Street gate. For GPS, enter “24th and R Street NE”.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The closest Metrorail stop is the Stadium Armory Station on the Blue and Orange lines. Transfer to the B2 Metrobus; disembark the bus on Bladensburg Road at Rand Street, just past the Arboretum sign on the right. Walk back to the sign at R Street and walk down R Street 2 blocks to the Arboretum entrance.

## PARKING

Free parking is just inside the R Street gate. If this lot fills, look for signs to direct you to additional parking. The symposium is located in the Administration Building, adjacent to the R Street lot.

# REGISTRATION

**Registration fee: \$95 (\$76 FONA members)**  
**Registration includes lunch.**

**Two ways to register:**

- 1) **Preferred:** Register online with credit card or check at [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or:
- 2) Send this form and check payable to the:  
US National Arboretum  
3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002  
Attn: Event Registration

NAME

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

► Please select **2 concurrent sessions:** one for the morning and one for the afternoon:

**Morning:**

- A. Walk on the Wild Side**
- B. Grasses and Sedges**
- C. Springtime Nature Tour**
- D. Hot Native Perennials**

**Afternoon:**

- E. Walk on the Wild Side**
- F. Poverty Oat Grass**
- G. Springtime Nature Tour**
- H. Hot Native Perennials**

**Lunch:**

Two types are offered. Please check your preference:

- Omnivorous lunch**
- Vegetarian lunch**

All registrations will be confirmed by mail or e-mail.

**Sorry, no refunds will be given for cancellations received after March 18, 2015.**

**For more information please call 202-245-4521.**