

# NATIVE PLANTS: COMPELLING LANDSCAPES



**21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
LAHR SYMPOSIUM**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 31, 2007**  
**U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM**  
**3501 NEW YORK AVE. N.E.**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002**

## SPEAKERS

**Charles A. Birnbaum** is the coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative (HLI). Charles' recent projects include the on-line series *Cultural Landscapes as Classrooms* and editing *Design with Culture: Claiming America's Landscape Heritage* for the University Press of Virginia. In 1995, the American Society of Landscape Architects awarded HLI the President's Award of Excellence and in 1996 inducted Charles, a landscape architect, as a Fellow of the Society. As a Loeb Fellow at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in 1998, he founded the Cultural Landscape Foundation. Most recently, Charles was awarded the Rome Prize in Historic Preservation and spent the 2004 spring term at the American Academy in Rome. He is also an instructor for the National Preservation Institute.

**Lisa and Chris Bright** founded Earth Sangha, a nonprofit Buddhist environmental organization centered in Fairfax, Virginia, in 1997. Lisa and Chris are both long-time students of Zen meditation. Lisa is ordained as a Dharma teacher in the Korean Chogye Order of Zen Buddhism. Chris is an environmental analyst, formerly at the Worldwatch Institute. Earth Sangha promotes care and respect for the environment through meditation and practical action, operating an ecological restoration program to help stabilize streams, restore native plant communities, and control invasive alien plants. At the heart of their restoration work is their Wild Plant Nursery, where they are growing over 100 native plant species from seed collected by volunteers from local, wild populations.

**Joan Feely** is the Curator of the Native Plant Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum. She is in charge of the naturalistic gardens of Fern Valley and has organized twenty LAHR Symposia. In addition to developing the arboretum's native plant collection, Joan works with arboretum staff and volunteers to fight the harmful effects of invasive plants at the arboretum, and works to restore the natural areas that characterize the National Arboretum's unique campus in Washington, D.C.

**Christopher T. Frye** is the State Botanist with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program. Chris is responsible for monitoring rare species populations and natural communities. His work includes conducting inventories and documenting trends in population and habitat health and viability. Chris hails from North Carolina, where he studied terrestrial orchids and vegetation dynamics of the state's Piedmont region. Chris has published a wide variety of articles on sedge identification and natural history. He regularly conducts workshops and participates in botanical symposia.

**Britt Slattery** is the Senior Conservation Biologist for Audubon Maryland-DC state chapter of the National Audubon Society where she oversees the *Audubon at Home - Healthy Yard* program. Previously with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 15 years, at the Chesapeake Bay Field Office she was Supervisor of Education and Outreach, directing the *Schoolyard Habitat* and *BayScapes* Programs. To promote the use of native plants for wildlife and water quality benefits, she has designed and installed numerous demonstration plantings and developed publications such as *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping*.

**Dr. Doug Tallamy** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, Newark, where he has authored over 65 research articles, including "Do Alien Plants Reduce Insect Biomass?" He teaches Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, and other courses. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His new book *Bringing Nature Home* will be published by Timber Press this summer.

**Gregg Tepper** is in charge of the Woods Path Garden at Mt. Cuba Center, an institution created by Mr. and Mrs. Lamont DuPont Copeland to foster an appreciation for plants of the Appalachian Piedmont and the conservation of their environment through garden display, education, and research. Gregg's interest in native plants began when he discovered the work of botanist Dr. Edgar Wherry at the early age of 13. After studying Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Delaware, he had his own horticultural maintenance business until coming to Mt. Cuba Center. Gregg's main focus in horticulture is in native shade plants as well as developing and studying *Lilium*, *Sanguinaria*, *Actaea*, and *Trillium*.

**Marcie Weigelt** manages the Pond Gardens at Mt. Cuba Center. Marcie discovered a love of horticulture while working at a wholesale cut-flower business, which led her to study at the Longwood Gardens Professional Gardener Training Program. After studying at Longwood, she accepted a position at the gardens of Mt. Cuba. Marcie is responsible for Mt. Cuba's hallmark pond landscape, where she weaves a remarkable landscape of wildflowers, ferns, and water-loving plants.



# 21st Annual Lahr Symposium

## Native Plants: Compelling Landscapes

The 2007 Lahr Symposium will explore compelling landscapes where native plants thrive—beautiful spaces, biological reservoirs, and landscapes integral to our cultural character.

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

9:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Joan Feely

9:40 **Design with Culture: Defining a Landscape Preservation Ethic**

**Charles Birnbaum** will highlight his work forging new directions and finding opportunities to better preserve and manage our nation's cultural landscape legacy. Cultural landscapes include entities as diverse as iconic natural areas such as Niagara Falls and Yosemite, to the gardens of turn-of-the-century country estates and post-war modernist public plazas, as well as the landscapes of traditional historic sites. Charles will show how an ethic of preservation can guide landscape managers when they must balance economics with authenticity; try to provide "historical" context; and offer public education about cultural landscapes that goes beyond simplistic views of nature, design, and history. Learn how he is working to make irreplaceable designed and vernacular landscapes less "invisible" and more likely to receive appropriate acclaim and management.

10:45 **Refreshment Break**

11:00 **Naturalistic Gardening from the Gardener's point of View**

Join **Gregg Tepper** and **Marcie Weigelt** who will share details of the naturalistic gardening they practice in the beautifully designed landscape of Mt. Cuba Center in Greenville, Delaware. Mt. Cuba's gardeners are responsible for achieving the Center's goal of fostering an appreciation for the native plants of the Appalachian Piedmont region. Theirs is a garden like no other, where an unparalleled collection of native species represents the rich flora that spans the Piedmont region, from the Hudson River in the north through Alabama to the south. Learn about the techniques they use throughout the year to create the idyllic naturalistic settings of Mt. Cuba's garden.

12:00 **Lunch and Plant Sale**

1:00 **Concurrent Sessions** — Select one among:

2:00 **A New Role for the American Garden: Fighting Extinction with Native Plants**

Natural landscapes throughout the eastern United States are being lost to urban and suburban development, and with those losses go our indigenous biodiversity. **Doug Tallamy** will illustrate how suburban landscapes can be made to provide essential resources to reduce the undoing of our natural heritage. He will show that native plant species can nourish local biodiversity when the landscape is not overwhelmed with exotic ornamental plants. Using his own old-field meadow landscape as his laboratory, Doug discovered how dramatically biodiversity is influenced by simple planting choices. In this presentation he will report on his research that suggests that gardens can help fight the extinction of native species.

A. **Earth Sangha, Private Vision for Public Good** Lisa and Chris Bright

Learn how this couple's dream to help improve the natural world grew from collecting a few acorns in local natural areas and raising tree seedlings in their back yard, into an international program for grass roots ecological restoration.

B. **Tour Fern Valley** Joan Feely

Explore the early spring flora represented in the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection, where Joan will also highlight perennial forbs and ferns that have a winter presence in the landscape.

C. **The Wide World of Sedges** Chris Frye

Discover the global diversity of the genus *Carex* of the family Cyperaceae, including the wide range of habitats and niches that they occupy, the array of growth patterns they exhibit, and their specialized ecology and evolution.

D. **Watershed-Friendly Gardening**  
Britt Slattery

Improve the environment while beautifying your yard, using conservation landscaping measures that will also attract birds and other wildlife to your property. Learn how to use native plants and conservation practices to enhance habitat, improve local water quality, and create a *Healthy Yard*, the *Audubon at Home* way.

### Friends of the National Arboretum Native Plant Sale:

Opens to the general public at 10 a.m.

Closes to all at 2 p.m.

We would like to thank the  
Friends of the National Arboretum  
for supporting this year's speakers as  
well as sponsoring lunch and refreshments.

*The U.S. National Arboretum is a part of the  
USDA Agricultural Research Service*

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## Registration Form

Registration fee: \$85 (FONA \$68)

Mail this registration form with payment to:

U.S. National Arboretum

3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

Attn: Event Registration

No cancellation refunds after March 23, 2007

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NAME

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AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

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TELEPHONE

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EMAIL

Please select one concurrent session:

- Earth Sangha Project, Private Vision for Public Good**
- Tour Fern Valley**
- The Wide World of Sedges**
- Watershed-Friendly Gardening**

Please check if you would like to receive:

- directions to the National Arboretum**
- list of local accommodations**
- vegetarian lunch**

Proceeds support the Lahr Internship in the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection

**For more information visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or call 202-245-5898**