

# NATIVE PLANTS NOW



24TH ANNUAL  
LAHR SYMPOSIUM  
MARCH 27TH 2010  
US NATIONAL ARBORETUM

## SPEAKERS

**William Cullina** is the Plant and Garden Curator for one of North America's newest and most exciting public gardens, The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Previously, as nursery director of the New England Wild Flower Society, he developed the largest native plant nursery in New England. A recognized authority on North American native plants, Cullina lectures widely and writes for popular and technical journals such as *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening*, and *Garden Design*. He has written five acclaimed horticultural reference books including his most recent release, *Understanding Perennials*. Numerous awards recognize his outstanding writing and plantsmanship.

**Linda Davis's** knowledge and interest in mosses began with curiosity and has expanded by years spent observing and studying in the field, studying bryology writings, peering into the microscope, and teaching others. She and her husband have inventoried mosses and liverworts for the National Park Service at Great Falls Park, Piscataway Park, and Fort Washington Park. Linda also facilitates a moss study group that meets monthly in Baltimore County and she welcomes all to join.

**Ann English**, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP, is the Rainscapes Planning Specialist for Montgomery County, MD. Her current activities also include development of a RainScapes for Schools program, creating a training program for landscape professionals in bio-retention maintenance and design, and serving as an adjunct faculty member with the Sustainable Landscape Design program at George Washington University. Her extensive experience in sustainable landscape practices includes serving as the landscape architect for the Low Impact Development Center, project manager for the American Horticulture Society's award-winning Green Garage exhibit, and 21 years in private practice as a landscape architect.

**Joan Feely** is the horticulturist and curator of the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, where she also manages the Dogwood Collection and the National Grove of State Trees. Joan has organized the current and past 22 Lahr Symposiums, an annual event held to educate and inspire attendees in

all aspects of native plants. She has recently travelled to some of the most beautiful natural areas in the eastern U.S. to collect seeds from native plants, which will be grown to enhance and expand the arboretum's native plant collection.

**Darrel Morrison**, FASLA, is a pioneer and long-time advocate for the use of native plant communities as models for the design of gardens and landscapes. His practice and teaching have taken him from the University of Wisconsin to the University of Georgia, where he served as Dean of the School of Environmental Design, and now to Columbia University's Landscape Design program. He has created some of the most interesting constructed native plant landscapes in America, including the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Research Center and the Storm King Arts Center in New York. He is the 2006 recipient of the Landscape Design Award of the American Horticultural Society. A collection of his essays, *Oconee Odyssey*, will be published soon by the Center for American Places.

**Dr. Alan Whittemore** is a plant taxonomist at the U. S. National Arboretum, and has worked on the taxonomy of native and cultivated plants for over 30 years. His published research includes work on 27 different families of flowering plants and bryophytes, including contributions to the *Flora of North America*, *Flora of China*, and several state floras. Alan's expertise and contributions to various flora projects regularly lead him into discussions on nomenclature controversies, making him an excellent source of behind-the-scenes information on the what and why of plant name changes.

**Kim Winter**, Ph.D., is a wildlife ecologist and ecological anthropologist who has worked for over 15 years in habitat conservation throughout the Americas. Her most recent job titles include International Coordinator for the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, for which she now serves as Steering Committee Secretary; and manager of the National Wildlife Federation Habitats Program. She specializes in promoting wildlife-friendly yards using native plants in urban and suburban areas. She writes and lectures nationwide on pollinators, conservation, and sustainability.

# 24th ANNUAL LAHR SYMPOSIUM

## NATIVE PLANTS: NOW



The 2010 Lahr Symposium, *Native Plants: Now*, inaugurates the 50th anniversary year for the National Arboretum's Fern Valley Native Plant Collection. Both the symposium and Fern Valley share the goals of fostering the beneficial use and preservation of native plants, and promoting a better understanding of our natural ecosystems. This year the locally and internationally renowned presenters will share their current projects and insights from the worlds of eco-savvy design, horticulture, botany, and habitat conservation.

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

### 9:30 Welcome and Introduction Joan Feely

### 9:40 Where Art and Ecology Meet

What do three places as diverse as East 14th Street in NYC, Arabia Mountain in Georgia, and Storm King Arts Center in the Hudson River Valley have in common? They have landscapes restored or designed by **Darrel Morrison** and his collaborators. In this session, Darrel will reflect on the structure and beauty of natural ecosystems and how he uses nature and art as sources of inspiration for his designs. His designs integrate diversity, sustainability, a sense of place, and organic change in both large and small landscapes. Learn how his approach informs designs in any region, whether it is a rendering of a 400-year-old forest in lower Manhattan or a restoration of plant communities on a granite outcrop in Georgia.

### 10:45 Refreshment Break

### 11:00 Gardens in Partnership with Biodiversity

**Dr. Winter** will guide us through native plant landscapes in a range of settings including urban, suburban, and rural. She will show how these landscapes can be a conservation lifeline to dwindling pollinator populations and support a variety of wildlife. You will learn which garden features attract and support which types of wildlife; from insects, including pollinating bees and butterflies, to mammals, including deer and squirrels. Her extensive knowledge of wildlife habitats and conservation will help you manage creatures you may or may not want in your garden and how to attract, maintain, or evict them in eco-friendly ways.

### 12:00 Lunch and Plant Sale

### 1:15 Concurrent Sessions — Select one among:

### 2:20 The Botany of Design

Beautiful native plants aren't just pretty faces, they are biological organisms that have distinct needs and **Bill Cullina** understands those needs particularly well after his years tending natives at the New England Wildflower Society, Niche Gardens Nursery, and now at The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Bill will discuss how plant features such as large leaves, variegation, red foliage, and flower types demonstrate the plant's needs, and how we can use this information to create garden designs that are more satisfying for the plant and the gardener. He will help us interpret what plants are telling us and how to create more beautiful landscapes with this intimate understanding of the botany of design.

### A. Mosses for Beginners

**Linda Davis** will reveal the world of mosses in detail, from their primordial anatomy, distinctive life cycle, and varied habitats, to their uses in gardens. Mosses are very small plants, but they have amazing adaptations and variations in form and niche preference. Look at them closely and you will see structures and patterns unlike anything you've seen before in the plant world. Linda will lead you through this discovery with slides, models, a bit of theater, and hands-on microscope work.

### B. Rain Gardens: Grow with the Flow

Let **Ann English** convince you that you can create a rain garden that adds beauty and diversity to your landscape, while improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Her extensive knowledge of site analysis, simple construction techniques, and well thought-out plant recommendations could help put your landscape in the vanguard of green design.

### C. Birthday Tour of the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection

Celebrate Fern Valley's 50th birthday and the arrival of spring with this tour led by curator **Joan Feely**. She will guide you through the collection where the earliest of spring's growth will be underway, from spicebush and spring beauty to toothwort and trillium. Be among the first to enjoy the renovated, accessible trails, and the new rustic-style bridges and viewing platforms. Learn what new plans for the collection are in the works for the next 50 years.

### D. Why Can't They Decide What to Call this Plant?

**Dr. Alan Whittemore** will share his expansive knowledge and insight into the world of botany to help us cope when the name of a popular plant is changed. Learn the reasons behind some of the recent name changes that have taken place in our flora, and find out why the switch from *Myrica* to *Morella* can teach you something about the ecological and horticultural characteristics of this plant. Gain a deeper understanding of what leads to name changes that will help you maintain your sanity in a world of shifting nomenclature.

## Friends of the National Arboretum Native Plant Sale:

Opens to the general public at 9:30 a.m.

Closes to all at 2:00 p.m.

Most vendors accept cash and checks only

We would like to thank  
the Friends of the National Arboretum  
for sponsoring the Native Plant Sale.  
A portion of the sale proceeds helps support  
the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection.

# Concurrent Sessions

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## Registration Form

**Registration fee includes lunch: \$89 (FONA \$71) To register:**

1. 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 US National Arboretum, to:  
U.S. National Arboretum, Attn: Event Registration  
3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

NAME

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

**No cancellation refunds after March 17**

**Please select one concurrent session:**

- A. Mosses for Beginners  
 B. Rain Gardens: Grow with the Flow  
 C. Birthday Tour of Fern Valley  
 D. Why Can't They Decide What to Call this Plant?

**Please check if you would like to receive:**

- regular lunch  
 vegetarian lunch

Symposium proceeds support the Lahr Internship  
in the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection

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