

27TH ANNUAL LAHR SYMPOSIUM: NATIVE PLANTS: CONSERVE, CULTIVATE, CREATE

Get up-to-date information on native plant topics including bold new conservation initiatives, creative landscape design projects, innovative regulatory efforts, traditional art forms, inspired garden planning, and more at the 27th Annual Lahr Symposium. Professionals and homeowners alike will enjoy presentations, workshops, and a special exhibit that all highlight current topics presented by six leading figures in the world of native plants.



SPEAKERS

Young Choe studied the traditional arts of ink painting and calligraphy in her native Korea before moving to the United States. Here she earned a degree in horticulture from the University of Maryland and began her career working with native plants at the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Beltsville, MD. She also volunteered at the National Arboretum's National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, where she combined her artistic talent, horticultural knowledge, and love of native plants to create *kusamono*. To enhance her skills, she traveled to Japan for intensive study with a renowned master *kusamono* artist. Young has become a well-known artist, lecturer, and teacher of this art form that combines art, gardening, and reverence for nature.

Janet Davis has spent nearly 30 years working in a variety of horticultural pursuits, while spending as much time as possible hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Her hikes fostered her passion for native flora and plant communities and spurred her desire to learn more. Since 1994, Davis has operated a landscape design-install-maintenance business, incorporating native plants into gardens and managed areas while utilizing sustainable garden techniques. More recently, she and her husband opened Hill House Farm & Nursery, which grows and sells natives and select cultivars that occur naturally in the mid-Atlantic region. Janet received a Bachelor's Degree in horticulture from Virginia Tech and currently lives in Rappahannock County, VA.

Michael Knapp is the Director of the Urban Forest Management Division for Fairfax County, VA, which works to ensure the vitality of the urban forest and preserve the natural environment. He chairs a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments committee that creates regional forest and tree conservation strategies, and he is the primary author of the *Virginia State Code for Conservation of Trees during Land Development*. Mike is a founding member of Fairfax ReLeaf, Inc., a non-profit tree-planting organization dedicated to restoring the county's tree canopy. His educational background is in Parks and Recreation and Applied Horticulture and he holds several advanced arborist certifications.

Heather Liljengren is the Supervising Seed Collector and Field Taxonomist for New York City's Greenbelt Native Plant Center. She actively manages the collecting, cleaning, cataloging, and storage of seeds that are used to produce plants to restore critical habitats in disturbed ecosystems in New York City parks. Travelling within a 100-mile radius of the city, Heather hunts for natural native plant communities, harvesting seed according to international collection protocols. She previously served as an intern at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and the National Tropical Botanical Gardens and holds a BS degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in Environmental Design.

Artist and landscape architect **Gary Smith** designs gardens that combine plants, art, and architecture to explore the intersection between ecological design and artistic abstraction. His innovative designs and prestigious awards at major public gardens are too many to list, but include native plant gardens at Longwood Gardens, Tyler Arboretum, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Smith was an Associate Professor of Landscape Design at the University of Delaware from 1989 – 1998, has lectured nationwide, and is currently developing an ASLA Professional Practice Network on Plants and Planting Design. His book, *From Art to Landscape: Unleashing Creativity in Garden Design*, received the 2011 American Horticultural Society Garden Book Award.

Ed Toth is the director of New York City's Greenbelt Native Plant Center (GNPC), an innovative nursery, greenhouse, bulk seed, and seed bank facility that is one of the few municipally supported native plant operations in the nation. In 2012, he launched the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARS-B) to fully regionalize the GNPC's seed conservation and plant material development programs and to act as the regional partner to the national seed banking initiative, *Seeds of Success*. Toth, a botanist, has worked for New York City Parks for 28 years, including ten years as the Director of Landscape Management for Prospect Park in Brooklyn.

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27TH ANNUAL
LAHR SYMPOSIUM:
SATURDAY,
MARCH 23, 2013
US NATIONAL ARBORETUM:
3501 NEW YORK AVE., NE
WASHINGTON, DC



LAHR SYMPOSIUM
U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002-1958

Official Business

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Join us at the Lahr Symposium
for informative and entertaining
presentations on native plants
presented by leading experts.
Enjoy the Arboretum's newly
renovated building and get an early
peek at spring in our remarkable
gardens and collections.

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SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

8:30 Registration and Early-bird Plant Sale

9:30 Welcome and Introduction

Joan Feely, U.S. National Arboretum

9:40 Why Native, Why Now?

You will be happily surprised by the abundance of benefits your garden provides you and the local ecosystem when native plants are included in your landscape. These advantages are particularly crucial now as our native flora struggles under the continuing assaults of habitat loss, invasive species, and the heavy use of non-native plants. **Janet Davis** will illustrate how to integrate natives into every garden, while highlighting how each native has intrinsic value as habitat for native fauna and pollinators. Learn how your beautiful “islands of habitat” help mitigate the negative effects of our modern world, fulfilling a small but essential role in supporting our natural flora, the linchpin to maintaining and preserving healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.

10:45 Refreshment Break

11:00 New York's Pioneering Native Plant Center

The Greenbelt Native Plant Center provides our nation's largest city parks system with native plants for restoration projects on New York City's public lands. Director **Ed Toth** discusses how the Center's programs have evolved and how the mission of the nursery is rooted in the wise management of seed to conserve the genetic integrity of local plant populations. He shares the latest information on the Center's projects, including the propagation and production of native plants, creation of the new Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank, the development of native plants for green roofs, and participation in the nationwide effort to preserve the genetic resources of ash species prior to their extirpation due to the Emerald Ash borer.

12:00 Lunch and Plant Sale

1:15 Concurrent Sessions — Select one among:

2:30 Art Goes Wild

Discover the joy of garden design that combines a sense of place, the special beauty of native plants, and the creative spirit. **Gary Smith** shares his innovative and creative ways of using native plants in the landscape by providing an alternative to the traditional “habitat” model for gardening with native plants. See how he extends the garden's mission into the world of fine art, garden design, environmental restoration, and conservation. Learn the simple techniques that Smith uses to nurture creativity, and then see how these techniques have shaped his design projects, with spectacular results.

3:30 Adjourn

A. Seed's Critical Role

A new and exciting regional seed collection program is expanding our ability to restore native plants to parks and other public lands. **Heather Liljengren** introduces us to the recently formed Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARS-B) and shares its mission, goals, and methods. Learn why local ecotypic seeds and plants are imperative for the long-term success of restoration projects and why they have been largely unavailable in the mid-Atlantic region until the development of the MARS-B. Get an expert's take on the fundamentals of collecting seed from wild native plant populations in the manner that maximizes the ecological value of that seed.

B. The Tao of Humble Plants

Appreciate native plants in an entirely new light during this presentation and demonstration by **Young Choe**, accomplished kusamono artist and teacher. Kusamono is the traditional Japanese art of potted arrangements of wild herbaceous plants in unique containers. Each composition suggests a season and a habitat, such as a wetland, meadow, or woodland. Discover how grasses, wildflowers, and other small plants native to the mid-Atlantic region may be artistically arranged to suggest miniature representations of nature. Choe explains how to create, display, and maintain these living compositions. A special exhibit of her work will be in the Arboretum's National Bonsai & Penjing Museum during the symposium.

C. Tree Preservation under Pressure

Ever wonder why a copse of trees was planted in front of the new home around the corner from your house? Find out from **Michael Knapp** how a local, fast-growing county regulates the preservation and replanting of tree canopy as development and infill construction continue to impact the community. Fairfax County's tree conservation program provides ordinances that require both homeowners and developers to help protect the environment by preserving existing trees and forests, and where this is not feasible, mitigating any loss through reforestation practices. Understand the underlying goals of these regulations, their limitations, and the various opportunities and challenges associated with their implementation.

“Thank you so much for this wonderful event. It was the first time I've participated and it exceeded my expectations.”

We're back!

The Lahr Symposium returns to the National Arboretum after two years in Beltsville. Enjoy the newly renovated building and the remarkable grounds and collections.

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Six award-winning, nationally recognized speakers
- ◆ Native Plant Sale – a collection of regional native plant vendors adjacent to the symposium
- ◆ Early bird admission to the Native Plant Sale – shop before it opens to the public and take advantage of our “plant sitting” service.
- ◆ Special Exhibit: *Spring Kusamono: Reflections of Fern Valley*
- ◆ New and used garden book sale
- ◆ Early spring display in the gardens and collections

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.

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 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.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration fee: \$89 (\$71 FONA members)

Registration includes lunch.

Two ways to register:

- 1) Register online with credit card or check at 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 one concurrent session:

- A. *Seed's Critical Role*
 B. *The Tao of Humble Plants*
 C. *Tree Preservation under Pressure*

Two types of lunch are offered. Please check your preference:

- Regular lunch
 Vegetarian lunch

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

Sorry, no cancellation refunds will be given after March 13, 2013.

For more information please call 202-245-4521.

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.

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