

LAHR



35TH ANNUAL
LAHR SYMPOSIUM

U.S. NATIONAL
ARBORETUM

MARCH 26, 2022
PRESENTED VIA ZOOM

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NATIVE
PLANTS:

FORCES FOR
CONSERVATION
AND
COMMUNITY

SCHEDULE

9:15 **Welcome and Introductions**
 Richard Olsen, Director, U.S. National Arboretum
 Scott Aker, Head of Horticulture and Education, U.S. National Arboretum
 Dana Daniels, Web Host and Education Specialist, U.S. National Arboretum

9:30 **From the Wild into the Spotlight:
 Public Gardens, Conservation and Native Plants**
 Uli Lorimer

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **Ecotypes, Ecoregions, and Ecological Restoration:
 Fortifying the Living Seed Bank**
 Sefra Alexandra

11:45 **Break**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

That Plant's an Herb? Hidden Talents of Native Plants
 Erin Holden

12:00 **Natives at Home: Using Local Ecotypes in Garden Design**
 Dr. Chris Puttock

**Kingman and Heritage Islands:
 Restoration, Conservation, and Management**
 Matt Sarver

1:00 **Eat and Greet**

1:30 **Break**

1:40 **In a Nutshell: Animal-Mediated Dispersal of the Oaks**
 Michael A. Steele, Ph.D.

2:40 **Closing, Acknowledgements, and Evaluations**

3:00 **Adjourn**



PROGRAM



From the Wild
into the Spotlight:
Public Gardens,
Conservation and
Native Plants

Uli Lorimer

9:30 AM

Public gardens play an important role in raising awareness about the need for plant conservation. With native plants growing in popularity, the role of public gardens will only increase, and the use of native plants for display and education represents a great opportunity to support plant conservation while offering the public a multitude of ways they can welcome native plants into their own gardens and designed spaces. Uli Lorimer will examine these trends and reflect on some of the broader challenges to wider use of native plants.

Uli Lorimer is the Director of Horticulture for Native Plant Trust and has 20 years of experience working with native plants in public gardens. He currently oversees the facilities and operations at Garden in the Woods and at Nasami Farm in Massachusetts. Prior to that, he worked at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Wave Hill Garden in the Bronx, NY, and the U.S. National Arboretum. He is a tireless advocate for the use of native plants in designed spaces through his public speaking, writing, and media appearances.

The Ecotype Project has developed a model for production of truly local native plant material by creating an ecoregional seed supply chain. The intention is to amplify the amount of truly local native seed available for ecological restoration. The process begins with trained botanists that wild-collect ecotypic seed, which is then grown out as a specialty crop by organic farmers, and finally cleaned and made commercially available to nursery partners. Sefra Alexandra will discuss the project's efforts to repair local seedsheds by fortifying the living seed banks of our shared ecological corridors.

Sefra Alexandra, also known as the Seed Huntress, is an endurance race ethnobotanist on a hunt to preserve the biodiversity of our wild and cultivated lands through seed conservation. Sefra leads The Ecotype Project for CT NOFA: The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut. She completed a Master of Arts in Teaching in agroecological education from Cornell University, and in 2020, she began BOATanical.org where she guides expeditions that are "paddlin' for the pollinators"- planting native plants by boat along riparian corridors.

Ecotypes, Ecoregions,
and Ecological
Restoration: Fortifying
the Living Seed Bank
Sefra Alexandra

10:45 AM

That Plant's an Herb?
Hidden Talents of
Native Plants
Erin Holden

12:00 PM
Concurrent Session

Native plants add color and interest to a garden, but many are more than just a pretty face. Some have a long history of use as medicine, and modern research supports their application in current therapeutic practices. Erin Holden will explore the historical and current herbal uses of a selection of native plants and discuss how they can enhance your landscape. Some of their uses may surprise you!

Erin Holden works in the National Herb Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum and holds a Master of Science in Herbal Medicine from the Maryland University of Integrative Health. She has worked at the Arboretum since 2013, primarily in the Herb Garden and the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. In 2018, she helped launch Herban Lifestyles, an herbal educational series at the Arboretum that teaches participants how to incorporate herbs into everyday life. Erin is also a clinical herbalist and has served as a teaching assistant for various herbal medicine graduate courses.

Drastic changes in our region over the past 400 years through land development, the removal of native vegetation, and the introduction of non-native species have led to significant losses of not just native habitat, but also the insects, birds, and other wildlife that depend upon them. Dr. Chris Puttock will present on how vitally important it is that we use local ecotype native plants wherever and whenever we can. He hopes to inspire you by demonstrating planting opportunities for local natives that are underappreciated despite their intrinsic beauty and benefit to wildlife.

Chris Puttock, Ph.D., is a botanist with four decades experience in environmental conservation and habitat restoration. Dr. Puttock holds a doctorate in plant systematics and since moving to Maryland from Hawaii in 2008 has been a Research Associate at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and Executive Director and CEO of Chesapeake Natives, Inc., a native plant nursery specializing in local ecotypes for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. He is also a past President of the Maryland Native Plant Society.

Natives at Home: Using
Local Ecotypes in
Garden Design
Chris Puttock, Ph.D.

12:00 PM
Concurrent Session

Kingman and Heritage
Islands: Restoration,
Conservation, and
Management
Matthew Sarver

12:00 PM
Concurrent Session

Tidal freshwater wetlands, vernal pools, wildflower meadows, and tidal swamp forests on Kingman and Heritage Islands provide habitat for more than 100 different species of birds, mammals, and other wildlife. The Kingman Island and Heritage Island Development Project aims to preserve and enhance this natural oasis in the city for the enjoyment of District residents and visitors. Matt Sarver will provide an overview of conservation efforts on the islands and how the project will adhere to principles of ecological restoration and biophilic design.

Matthew Sarver is the owner of Sarver Ecological, LLC and has more than 15 years of field experience in ecology, wildlife biology, botany, entomology, herpetology, and land management. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University with a concentration in Neurobiology and Animal Behavior and has worked for state natural heritage programs in Pennsylvania and Maryland, searched for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker for Cornell and The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas, and traveled the world, from Borneo to Colombia, studying and documenting biodiversity.

Seed dispersal, a critical stage in the lifecycle of many plants, involves the movement of the seed beyond the shadow of the parent plant to sites suitable for germination and seedling establishment. Michael A. Steele, Ph.D., will pull from years of research across North America, Costa Rica, and China to show how specific acorn characteristics, such as germination schedules, chemistry, and morphology, influence the behavior of seed-hoarding rodents and birds. He will also explore how these behavioral decisions in turn influence the process of oak dispersal, seedling establishment, and the regeneration of our forests.

Michael A. Steele, Ph.D., serves as an Endowed Research Professor in the Biology Department of Wilkes University, where his lab has spent more than 30 years researching the process of oak dispersal by rodents and birds all over the world. Before joining the faculty at Wilkes University, he completed his Ph.D. at Wake Forest University in 1988 and held a postdoctoral position at North Carolina State. He is the author of more than 120 peer reviewed publications, including eight books and edited volumes, most recently *Oak Seed Dispersal: A Study in Plant-Animal Interactions*.

In a Nutshell:
Animal-Mediated
Dispersal of the
Oaks

Michael A. Steele

1:40 PM



REGISTRATION

The Lahr Symposium is going virtual again in 2022. Our program will be presented via Zoom. Detailed instructions for Zoom access and links will be provided through the registration process.

Register to attend [here](#).

\$75

Registration fee

\$55

Fee for FONA members

Registration will close on Friday, March 18, 2022. Refunds will not be issued after March 18th, 2022 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.

Please note, these sessions will not be recorded or otherwise available after the symposium! Be sure to join us live to participate.

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 202-245-2717.



PLANT SALE

The annual Native Plant Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum, will take place on Sunday, March 27, from 9AM to 2PM.

The sale will be located on Meadow Road, adjacent to the Herb Garden Entrance.

Please be prepared to wear a mask when browsing plants and interacting with vendors.