

Annual SER Mid-Atlantic Conference Skills-Based Training*
Plant Materials and Ecological Design for Restoration

Thursday March 26, 2015 - 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Longwood Gardens

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348
(about 30 minutes from Newark, Delaware)

Sponsored by:



Featuring:

Dr. Doug Tallamy

Professor, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware

Travis Beck

Director of Horticulture, Mt. Cuba Center and author

Claudia West

Ecological Sales Manager, North Creek Nurseries

Tom Brightman

Land Steward, Longwood Gardens

Matthew Sarver

Senior Ecologist and Owner, Sarver Ecological, LLC

CEUs are currently being arranged are posted on the SER Conference Website. We are anticipating ASLA CEUs.

Do you ever wonder if you have chosen the best plant species and planting strategies for your to achieve the end points of your ecological restoration project? Please join us for this exceptional series of presentations by noted native plant and ecological design experts. The training includes a tour of the Longwood Gardens Meadow.

The focused, skills-based training program will provide participants with the skills to design plant communities for ecological restoration, with a focus on habitat and ecological function. Participants will learn about the scientific basis for selecting appropriate plant material and the ecological design elements necessary for a successful restoration plan.

Topics will include:

- Selecting host plants for insect and wildlife diversity
- Designing plant communities to account for competition and natural succession
- Structural and spatial elements of ecological design and wildlife habitat
 - Plant establishment and site maintenance
 - Site design considerations

Preliminary Schedule

8:30 Registration and Coffee

8:45 Welcome from Longwood Gardens and Introductions to Featured Presenters and Review of Workshop Goals

9:00 - 9:45 Morning Session I: Doug Tallamy – Native Plants for Birds and Insects

9:50-10:35 Morning Session II: Travis Beck – Ecological Planting Design. Adapting the Science

10:50-11:30 Morning Session III: Claudia West – Ecological Landscape: Where Horticulture and Design Meet Ecology

11:35 – 11:50 Introduction to Longwood Garden's Meadow Project – Tom Brightman

12:00 Lunch (To Be Provided – Boxed Lunches with Vegetarian Options)

12:45 – 2:45 Tour of Longwood's Meadow Garden - Tom Brightman & Longwood staff

2:45 – 3:15 Afternoon Session and Wrap-up – Matt Sarver – Maximizing Ecological Benefits

3:30 Distribute Certificates and CEUs and Adjourn

Longwood Gardens is generously providing attendees an opportunity to visit their on-going Orchid Extravaganza display from 3:30-4:30. We recommend you plan accordingly if you plan to attend the SER annual meeting in Newark, Delaware that starts at 5:30 (see below).

* This skill-based training is the kick-off event of **SER Mid-Atlantic 10th Annual Conference – A Celebration of Mid-Atlantic Restoration, Thursday March 26 through Saturday March 28, 2015**. Registration and information can be found at <http://chapter.ser.org/midatlantic/>. The website includes details on CEUs, lodging suggestions near Newark, DE (extending to Elkton, MD), descriptions of conference speakers and sessions, and short summaries of the field trips. Please register and join us for the following events:

Thursday Evening: 5:30 PM-SER Mid-Atlantic Annual Meeting (free) in reserved room at Caffé Gelato (Address below) & 7:00 PM Celebratory Dinner to honor founders at Caffé Gelato 90 E. Main St. Newark, DE. (\$30.00/per.)

Friday: Annual Conference and Poster Pub at the Clayton Conference Center on the Campus of the UD – Newark campus.

Saturday: 9:00: Three Field Trip options to local restoration sites (registration required).

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Doug Tallamy, Professor, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware Doug has written more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. 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. Doug won the Silver Medal from the Garden Writer's Association for his 2009 book *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* and has recently coauthored *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* with Rick Darke.

Travis Beck, Director of Horticulture, Mt. Cuba Center, and author. Travis Beck is Director of Horticulture at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware, where he oversees the care and evolution of 22 acres of native plant gardens and 532 acres of natural lands. Prior to Mt. Cuba, Travis worked at the New York Botanical Garden, where he managed large landscape design and construction projects. He is a registered landscape architect and holds a master's degree in Horticulture from The Ohio State University. His book, *Principles of Ecological Landscape Design*, published in 2013 by Island Press, applies current scientific thinking to the design and management of successful, sustainable landscapes.

Claudia West, Ecological Sales Manager, North Creek Nurseries. Claudia West is the ecological sales manager at North Creek Nurseries, a wholesale perennial grower in Landenberg, PA. Claudia holds a Master's Degree of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from the Technical University of Munich, Germany. In her current role, Claudia works closely with ecological design and restoration professional, offering consultation services from initial project planning stages to adaptive management strategies after project completion. Her work is centered on the development of stable, layered planting designs and the desire to bring American native plants back into our landscape by making them widely acceptable. Claudia is a sought after speaker on topics such as plant community based design and the application of natural color theories to planting design. Together with co-author Thomas Rainer she will publish a new approach to ecological planting design in her first book 'Planting in a Post-Wild World' (Timber Press) next fall.

Tom Brightman, Land Steward, Longwood Gardens. Tom Brightman is the Land Steward at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, where he helps maintain over 700 acres of forest, meadow, wetlands and agricultural lands. At Longwood, he helped manage the design and construction of the Route 52 and Meadow Garden ecological design and restoration projects; teaches; and is involved in strategic planning, sustainability initiatives, and community collaborations. Tom was previously the Conservation Easement Manager for the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford, PA. There, he helped oversee 30,000 acres of privately conserved lands, working with landowners to accomplish quality environmental outcomes. He is a Lecturer in the University of Pennsylvania's Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program; and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Red Clay Valley Association, and the Land Health Institute's Advisory Board. Tom has a BA in American Civilization and a MES, both from the University of Pennsylvania.

Matthew Sarver, Senior Ecologist and Owner, Sarver Ecological, LLC. Matthew Sarver is owner of Sarver Ecological, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in conservation planning, site assessment and biotic inventory, invasive species management, native plant selection, restoration planning, and wildlife habitat design. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, cum laude, from Cornell University with a concentration in Neurobiology and Animal Behavior. He is currently Conservation Chair of the Delmarva Ornithological Society. Matt is also the Delaware representative on the boards of the Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council and the Society for Ecological Restoration Mid-Atlantic and serves on the Delaware Nature Society's Land and Biodiversity Management Committee.