PRESENTS THE 20TH ANNUAL
LAND ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

Creative Approaches for Ecological Landscaping

Thursday, March 12, 2020
Delaware Valley University
Life Sciences Building
Doylestown, PA

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About the Speakers

Steve Black is the Owner and Operator of Raemelton Farm, Adamstown, MD. In addition to farming, Steve is Past President of the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, Greenhouse Association (MNLGA), he has served on two USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative Advisory Boards, and is a member of the board of the University of Maryland’s Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology.

Monica A. Chasten is a Project Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Operations Division. She has over 35 years of experience with hydraulic and coastal engineering projects specializing in dredging with innovative placement, beach nourishment, tidal inlets, regional sediment management and coastal structures. She currently serves as the Project Manager for numerous Coastal Navigation projects in New Jersey and Delaware and for the district’s five flood control reservoir projects in Pennsylvania.

Ching-Fang Chen, RLA, ASLA, is a landscape architect with the Montgomery Parks of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. She designs and implements capital improvement park projects in Montgomery County, Maryland. For the past decade, she has worked relentlessly to reinvent public parks by promoting good design and innovation. Her work blurred the lines between art and landscape, aesthetics and sustainability, and has created engaging experiences that highlight sites’ ecological and cultural significance. Prior to joining the public sector, she worked for Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, Inc., leading a wide range of projects in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest region.

Jules Dingle FAIA LEED-AP is a principal and founding partner of DIGSAU, a Philadelphia-based architectural studio. DIGSAU’s philosophy of practice is guided by a commitment to design excellence, experimentation, attentiveness to the needs of their clients and a deep connection to the material culture of the places where they work. Since its founding in 2007, DIGSAU has received over 50 design awards from the American Institute of Architects. In 2017, the firm was recognized by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects with the Firm Award. In 2013 the Architectural League of New York named DIGSAU one of North America’s “Emerging Voices” and the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA recognized the firm in 2010 with the Philadelphia Emerging Architecture Prize.

Jennifer Pennington, RLA is a landscape architect and former staffer at BHWP and Longwood Gardens. She is currently practicing at Robinson Anderson Summers in Media, PA. She received her landscape architecture degree, with an emphasis on ecological design, from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY. She has a passion for public gardens, native plants, and hiking in the Adirondacks.

Panelists:
Stacey Hayes-Nash, RLA, PCH
Parkland Nurseries LLC

Jennifer Nichols Co-Founder, Principal
GreenWeaver Landscapes

Sue Tantsits - Horticulturist/Owner/Managing Member
Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery
9:00  Land Ethics Award Presentation

The Discovery Center at Fairmount Park—An Urban Oasis—Jules Dingle
The Discovery Center is an urban bird sanctuary and leadership development center conceived in partnership between The Audubon Society of Pennsylvania, Outward Bound Philadelphia and the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood. The project site surrounds the decommissioned 30-acre west basin of the East Park Reservoir in Fairmount Park. Over time, this 19th-century man-made landscape has given way to the restorative forces of nature and become an important habitat for migratory birds. Closed for decades, the Discovery Center project renews the site for public access. This session will comprehensively recount the ecological, social, historical and political forces that aligned to create the Discovery Center and the ambition that this project represents. Specific focus will be given to how the design sustains and reinforces the natural and cultural ecology of the site through management of storm water and invasive plants, a range of high and low tech bird strike reduction techniques, creation of habitat and the close integration of building and landscape to create a dramatic portal from the city to this unexpected natural setting.

10:00  New Aesthetics for Public Parks—Ching-Feng Chen
Culture and aesthetics greatly influence the way we think, and how we design and experience places. How can designers inspire people to relate to these values by translating them into a design for public parks? Ms. Chen will share her work on county parks where she weaves imaginative design into recreation, conserva-
tion, and environmental education.

11:00  Beverage Break and Book Sale

11:20  Certified Organic Ornamentals: The How and Why of a New Approach to Tree Production—Steven Black
In 2015 Raemelton Farm became the first and only nursery in the United States to sell USDA Certified ORGANIC B&B trees. The organic market is no longer a hippie thing; consumers now put a value on the way in which plants are produced. In addition to a more valuable end product, organic production also protects and maintains the soil ecosystem. Cost-efficient, organic ornamental production is far from ‘old fashioned.’ The presentation will cover Raemelton’s innovative techniques for pest and weed control, soil conservation, and farm management.

12:20  Lunch and Book Sale

1:30  Land Ethics Award Presentation

Engineering with Nature to Support System Resilience: Examples of Innovative Channel Dredging and Placement in Coastal New Jersey—Monica A. Chastain
The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), through its Engineering with Nature (EWN) program, is combining the use of research and development, collaboration and partnering, and demonstration projects and technology transfer in order to support sustainable infrastructure development. The Philadelphia District, an EWN Proving Ground since 2016, has partnered with USACE’s Engineering Research and Development Center and other project stakeholders to construct innovative ecosystem and shore protection projects using material dredged from federal channels in a triple-win approach. Project partners including the State of New Jersey, The Wetlands Institute, The Nature Conservancy and Green Trust Alliance are developing lessons learned and continue to monitor the projects in order to enhance future restoration activities. EWN project examples in New Jersey and Delaware will be presented. Moving forward, the Seven Mile Island Living Laboratory has recently been formed, providing a collaborative forum to advance progress on these types of projects through innovative research, collaboration, knowledge-sharing and practical application. In addition to efforts ongoing within the Philadelphia District, the national EWN initiative will be discussed providing a learning opportunity for past and ongoing work on national and international projects, many of which involve the restoration of natural landscapes and infrastructure.

Beverage Break and Book Sale

Sustainable Residential Landscapes: From Theory to Practice—Jennifer Pennington (Panel Moderator)
The application of ecological design principles to the residential context has been an integral part of landscape architecture curricula for decades, yet the suburban home landscape has not evolved to reflect them. This session aims to get at the root of this disconnect by looking at current research into public perception of naturalistic landscapes and compare this to practical experience with residential clients. Our panel of three design-build practitioners are leaders in sustainable landscape design, construction and maintenance. They will discuss how best to lead, educate and advocate for sustainable home landscapes.

Closing Remarks