

About our Speakers

Bill Powell, Ph.D., is the director of the American Chestnut Research & Restoration Project and a scientist-in-residence at the Roosevelt Wild Life Station, both at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. For his Ph.D. from Utah State University, Powell researched the molecular mechanisms of hypovirulence in the chestnut blight fungus, *Cryphonectria parasitica*. In 1989, he became a faculty member at SUNY ESF, where he launched the chestnut project with his colleague, Charles Maynard, Ph.D. After developing a blight-resistant American chestnut tree, the project has started growing 10,000 trees to restore the tree to its native range.

Timothy Majoros leads the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Public Landscapes team in the management of public gardens and landscapes throughout the City of Philadelphia—including the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Delaware River waterfront and Philadelphia Navy Yard. He holds a B.S. in environmental horticulture from the University of Rhode Island and a M.S. in science education from Drexel University. He has more than 15 years of experience in the horticulture industry in a variety of different roles, including head gardener, nursery manager and project manager.

Tom Smarr, the executive director of the Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens in Devon, PA, has worked for more than two decades in horticulture, public gardens, conservation and organic landscaping. With a M.S. in urban horticulture from the University of Washington, he worked for UW's Botanic Gardens and the Native Plant Trust's "Garden in the Woods" in Framingham, MA. Most notably, he has led the horticulture management of newly designed urban parks, such as the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway in downtown Boston, MA, built on top of the infamous "Big Dig;" the High Line in Manhattan; and The Parklands of Floyds Fork in Louisville, KY.



Baldev Lamba, RLA, ASLA, is the principal of Lamba Associates, a landscape architectural firm, and an associate professor at Temple University, where he formerly chaired the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. Recently, he was president of the PA-DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Lamba's notable accomplishments include: the international award-winning First Ladies Water Garden in Washington, DC; the Excellence in Research and Creative Work Award from the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture; his highly acclaimed series of Pop-Up Parks in his hometown of Doylestown, PA; and the publication of "Green Green," a children's picture book.

Stacy Levy is a sculptor whose environmental art projects show the presence of urban nature, clarifying the patterns of natural processes that exist on the site. She collaborates directly with natural forces: tidal rivers, urban streams and rainwater. Her projects allow people to witness the fluctuations of the natural world in order to bring a sense of wonder and connectedness. Two of her current projects include working with the Lancaster, PA, Department of Stormwater, and in a collaboration with the designers of the East Midtown Greenway, creating a permanent project that highlights the micro-algae inhabiting Manhattan's East River. Levy is a recipient of the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and an Arts in Conservation award given by Penn Futures.

Beverly Fisher is a multidisciplinary artist based in the Southwest who explores site-responsive design and the relationship between humans, form and landscape. The Lancaster, PA, native creates studio and site-based work in a range of media, including drawing, sculpture and installation. She was one of the first artists to work with the City of Philadelphia's Restored Spaces Initiative, which uses art and landscape design as a platform for neighborhood change. Her artwork has been exhibited in galleries and museums nationally, including the Santa Fe Art Institute, NYC Art on Paper Fair, Anderson Ranch Art Center in Snowmass, CO, and the Bachechi Open Space in Albuquerque, NM.



21ST ANNUAL LAND ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

CREATIVE APPROACHES TO
ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING

Feb. 18, 2021
VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

PRESENTED BY



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21st Annual Land Ethics Symposium Overview

Welcome and Opening Remarks 8:00 AM

American Chestnut Research & Restoration Project 8:15 AM
— Bill Powell, Ph.D.

The American chestnut was once a common, economically and culturally important foundational species within its range in the eastern forest of North America until it was devastated by an invasive pathogen. Over the past century, many techniques have been applied to try and restore this important tree with only partial or no success. Today, we have newer biotechnology tools that in many ways are ideal for conservation and restoration. This presentation will describe the American chestnut, its loss to the blight, and how the tools of genetic engineering, combined with traditional breeding, can help restore this tree to the forests.

The Navy Yard: Retrofitting the Conventional Campus Landscape 9:15 AM
— Timothy Majoros

The Navy Yard in South Philadelphia is home to over 2,000 trees amidst garden beds thriving along the Delaware River waterfront. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's work on the 1,200-acre site, managed in partnership with PIDC—a public-private economic development corporation—has transformed the land into a beautiful and healthy public space. Currently a Level 1 arboretum, the Navy Yard is now a botanic highlight. This talk details the process of transitioning a large-scale commercial landscape into a diverse habitat that supports the health of people and environment. Key areas of focus will be perennial plant design, progressive landscape maintenance practices and organic alternatives. Other topics covered will be economic and environmental impacts, as well as specifics on the plant selection process.



The Future of Urban Parks: The Challenges of Responsible Design & Management 10:15 AM
— Tom Smarr

As the population and building density continues to grow over the next several decades, so will the challenges and importance of designing and managing urban greenspaces. Building upon his expansive experience working in some of the amazing modern public parks, Tom Smarr will describe innovative ways to provide healthy and engaging green spaces in our cities. Using examples from places like the RFK Greenway in Boston, the High Line in New York City and The Parklands at Floyds Fork in Louisville, Smarr will explain how good design and management can address the challenges of providing desirable, relevant and responsive greenspaces.

LAND ETHICS AWARDS 11:15 AM
— BHWP STAFF

The Art of Nature and the Nature of Art: Expressions in the Landscape 11:30 AM
— Baldev Lamba, RLA, ASLA (moderator and panelist)
— Beverly Fisher (panelist)
— Stacy Levy (panelist)

This panel will explore how natural processes and patterns are understood and perceived from an artistic perspective, including the many obscure or even invisible processes in the landscape that are essential to preserving the integrity of our ecosystems. With backgrounds in both art and landscape architecture, the panelists will offer novel perspectives about reading a site and making landscape processes visible and accessible through creative design expressions. One unique aspect: The presentation of ideas for an installation on the Preserve's grounds that will integrate art and ecology—an installation that will inspire possible applications in the larger landscape and community. The installation will be designed to express the concepts of revealing natural processes, adaptations to change and transformation, and community engagement. It will do so while using elements, such as plants and rocks, of the indigenous landscape.

Closing Remarks and Thank You 12:45 PM



LAND ETHICS AWARDS



2020 Land Ethics Award Winners

"The Land Ethics Award is an important component of the Preserve's efforts to expand the use of native plants outside of our physical boundaries. Our professional partners create amazing, ecologically responsible projects that deserve recognition. Highlighting these efforts in sustainability and environmental stewardship helps inspire others to make similar ethical land management decisions."

— Peter Couchman, Executive Director

Applications for nominations are found at: bhwp.org/les

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