

Workshop Programming

Donald Pell, Fumblings of a Garden Designer: The Journey of an Ecological Sensualist

An intense fascination with the visceral, and with healthy, beautiful places has been the impetus for Donald Pell's work. The time and pressure of learning from the performance of projects has focused the firm's work to better understand opportunities in site design, soils management and place making. Thirty years of planting design has improved the work in creating more sustainable and alluring landscapes. These gardens become fully realized when management teams become part of the design process that create dynamic, resilient places.

For over 30 years, Donald Pell has been reshaping landscapes throughout the Mid - Atlantic and Southern US. The focus of the work is to develop places that entice people to explore and engage the emotive landscape. His planting designs are composed as impressionist artworks that draw inspiration from nature. Donald Pell's works have won top design awards from the Perennial Plant Association (PPA), the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) and, most recently, a Silver Medal in his first-ever appearance at the Philadelphia Flower Show. His designs have been finalists in HGTV's Ultimate Outdoor Awards and featured in several publications, including *Private Gardens of Philadelphia*, *Fine Gardening*, *Flower*, *GROW*, *Garden Design* and *Parents Magazine*. Situated on a 14-acre farm in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, Don's studio garden has become a frequent destination for naturalistic garden design enthusiasts and horticultural education groups from around the world. The gardens explore developing novel plant communities utilizing native and cosmopolitan plants and sustainable garden techniques.

Jim McCormac, Sparrows of Ohio

Often overlooked or dismissed as LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs), our native sparrows create beautiful melodies, are often ornately plumaged, and are tightly tied to certain plant communities. Most of them are vegans, for most of the year, and collectively they play an important role in the dispersal of seeds. Twenty species occur annually, and 13 of them nest. One former nester, the Bachman's Sparrow, is extirpated. Another eight species have occurred as vagrants, bringing Ohio's roster of sparrows to 29 species. This talk, lushly illustrated with imagery, will discuss the habitats of our nesting species, including especially important plant species, and the population trajectories, pro or con, of each.

Jim McCormac worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specializing in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books, including *Birds of Ohio* (Lone Pine 2004); and *Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage* (Kent State University Press 2009). The latter won the 2010 Ohioana Book award. He is a coauthor of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II book. His latest book, coauthored with Chelsea Gottfried, is *Gardening for Moths* (Ohio University Press 2023). Jim writes a column, *Nature*, for the Columbus Dispatch, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He has written numerous articles in a variety of publications and has delivered hundreds of presentations throughout the eastern United States. He was named 2015 Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Ohio League of Sportsmen. Jim is an avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects. He has had hundreds of photos published in various forums. His photography can be sampled at <https://www.jimmccormac.com/>.

Michele Banker, DIY-Growing Native Plants, and MEEC Nursery Tour, Outdoor Walk.

A walking tour with a behind-the-scenes look at the Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC) native plant nursery. The outdoor workshop will introduce the steps taken in native seed propagation including basic tools needed, proper seed collection and handling, various cleaning techniques, soil mixes, protection from animals, and the challenges of weather conditions. While it is an investment in time and patience; you too can propagate, perpetuate, and promote native plants throughout our home landscapes.

Michele serves as the Land Resource & Service Volunteer Coordinator for MEEC. As caretaker of the 100 acres of natural areas at Mount Saint John, she guides the establishment and management of tall grass prairie, non-native invasive plant monitoring and native plant landscaping around the MSJ facilities. Since 1998, has led service learning, educational programs, ecological research, and worked with volunteers on land restoration projects in woodland, prairie, wetlands, and native plant nurseries.

Tom Borgman, Choosing, Planting and Caring for trees

This is an outdoor presentation where Tom will demonstrate how to plant a tree and discuss how to know what species of tree is best for various situations and the best ways to help it thrive.

As a naturalist, natural areas manager and horticulturalist, planting trees has always been an important part of Tom's career. He has had a role in getting about 100,000 trees in the ground in wild places and yards.

Kelly Capuzzi, Native Plants and Wildlife

I will be leading a nature walk to identify insects, plants, birds and anything that we may encounter. I like to connect people with nature and help them to discover new interactions between plants, insects and other animals.

I am a biologist for the state of Ohio with over 30 years of experience monitoring rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. I am also an Athens County Master Gardener and an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist both through Ohio State University Extension. I am passionate about growing and planting native plants for pollinators and have done many education outreach programs to promote native plants for wildlife.

Brian Jorg, Restoring a Wetland Property

We will look at the process of turning an agricultural farm back into a restored wetland. Then look at the efforts to create vernal pools for amphibians, create hedgerows for wildlife, and management techniques for all native flora and fauna. We will also cover the efforts to measure the successes, thru observations, bird banding, and research projects that measure the species baseline, as well as increasing those populations that are being managed.

Brian Jorg has been managing the Native Plant Program for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden for 20 years. The main areas of focus have been Trillium propagation by sustainable methods. Growing endangered and imperiled species for reintroduction is also a major focus of the program. Growing over 10,000 Oak trees, a year has become a recent focus.

Kara Maynard, Decoding the Wild: Making Native Landscapes Understandable

The native plant movement has gained a lot of traction in the past few years, and we want to make sure that we make it look good! In this talk we will go over the key elements for making your native landscape look and feel intentional. We will also cover how to make others see what we see as native plant lovers; amazing plants, birds, bees, caterpillars, supporting the environment, and more. Education is key to unlocking the mystery of "why". We will discuss the importance of educating our community; neighbors, legislators, family and friends on how to view our gardens, because the beauty goes beyond the pretty flowers. Native plant gardening is a rich immersive experience and hopefully in this class you will learn how to show that to others.

Kara is the owner of Deeply Rooted Landscapes, a full-service native plant nursery and landscaping company serving the Greater Dayton Region. DRL focuses on native plant gardening offering consultations and design work to better educate the community and empowers them to get native plants into their landscapes in a way that will also create a lot of habitats. Deeply Rooted Landscapes has worked with hundreds of clients and installed gardens in a variety of settings from shady residential gardens to sunny prairie installs in commercial spaces.

Carol Mundy, Whose Yard Is It Anyway?

Your home landscape is looking good, and then the drama begins... flower heads are eaten, trees have been rubbed raw, and bark has been stripped. You see holes in the ground, nests in the shrubs and babies under the deck! Wildlife has moved in and you're thinking "whose yard is it anyway?" Here's a chance to ask questions and get some answers about learning to live WITH wildlife. After all, isn't that why you planted native species on your property?

As a naturalist, speaker and writer Carol Mundy taught for the University of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Park District, leading classes on urban wildlife issues, native plants, weed identification and the historical uses of plants. She continues to offer lectures and workshops in her "retirement." Carol is also the long-time host of a weekly radio program "Outdoor Life" on WMKV located in Cincinnati. It features unique topics and interviews tying together nature, science, art and culture.

Judy Semroc, Attracting Beneficial Insects to the Home Garden Habitat

This program will highlight a sampling of beneficial insects that are desirable to have in our yards and gardens. Information will be given as to the natural history of these creatures, how to attract them to your yard and garden, their connection to pollinators, and why they are important.

Judy has spent more than 30 years chasing, observing, and marveling at the amazing natural history found in Ohio & other states. She is the founder of "Chrysalis in Time," the first Ohio chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Judy also serves on the board of Ohio Ornithological Society (Conservation Committee) & the Ohio Biological Survey. She has co-authored two natural history guides, "Dragonflies & Damselflies of Northeast Ohio" and "Goldenrods of Northeast Ohio: A Field Guide to Identification & Natural History." As a former Petroleum Geologist and science teacher, Judy loves to learn about and share her passion for the natural world through hikes, interpretive programs and photography. Learn more about Judy's latest adventures & offerings through her new company, Nature Spark!

Jennifer Smith, Gardens Not Their Own: The role volunteer gardeners play in public gardens

While famous and influential garden designers like Piet Oudolf receive praise and recognition for their garden designs, and well they should, if it were not for the dedicated teams of garden volunteers to plant and care for such gardens, would such gardens exist? Volunteer gardeners are the unsung heroes of public gardens, be it parks, community gardens, historic gardens, as well as new gardens. What makes for a good garden volunteer? What is the ask of public garden volunteers? What should volunteers ask of the gardens for which they want to contribute their time? How does a gardener find a volunteer opportunity that is well suited for their time, talents, and personality? We will explore these questions, and more.

Jennifer Smith is an award-winning pollinator garden designer and educator at Wimberg Landscaping. She has been planting with nature for more than 20 years, she designed and maintains the Wimberg Landscaping pollinator garden at Ault Park, the new pollinator garden at the Wasson Way bike trail, as well as the gardens surrounding Wimberg's office. She was a volunteer gardener with Ault Park for nearly 10 years, and was the coordinator of the Adopt-a-Plot program at Ault Park for several years. She is a garden writer, photographer, and speaker and former garden blogger for Horticulture Magazine.