



2016 SPEAKER SCHEDULE BY DAY

FRIDAY SPEAKERS

8:45-9:45am

Don Knezick, Owner of Pinelands Nursery and Supply in Columbus, New Jersey

The Obstacles and Opportunities of Developing a Native Plant Nursery

Don will detail the concepts, history, challenges, successes and failures of starting, growing and sustaining a native plant nursery that has grown to be one of the biggest and most respected of its kind in the entire U.S. Don has championed many of the same ideas and principles we promote through INLS—such as the importance of regional plant material, and the importance of native plants as the backbone of ecological restoration and native landscaping. Don is an early adopter, often leading the way where industry colleagues will eventually follow—he was willing to grow plants before they were ordered or requested—‘on spec’—before most native nurseries were willing to do that.

I first met Don Knezick in a 13 hour job interview, when I was trying to move back East after 10 years living and working in California. Everyone in the native plant world said “You need to work for Pinelands”. I contacted Don out of the blue, offering myself as a Nursery Manager. Don was generous enough to entertain my unsolicited offer, and energetic enough to drive me down to Virginia and back in one calendar day as a ‘job interview’. Little did I know, that was a typical day for Don. He works as hard as anyone I’ve ever met, and he has literally powered the native plant industry forward in his 30+ years of native plant and erosion control work. In many ways, Don saw the future of an industry before the industry saw itself. His presentation will illustrate his progressive vision as well as the effort it took to bring it to reality.

9:45-10:45am

Jesse Hoffman, Preserve Steward and Botanist, Albany Pine Bush

Seed collection, local native plant restoration and landscape in the surrounding community

Jesse will discuss his comprehensive efforts for the Albany Pine Bush, where he collects seed, propagates, and raises native plants from local seed sources, for their APB's own restoration efforts. Jesse also works to make those plants available for local landscape use and helps local people understand how to use them.

Jesse has a Bachelor’s degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University where he focused on applied ecology. He is a lifelong botanist and is in charge of much of the on the ground conservation and recreation work at the Albany Pine Bush. Jesse supervises seasonal staff and coordinates several groups of long and short term volunteers who help him in ensuring that the trails system is maintained, boundaries are posted, native seed is collected, invasive species are located and eradicated, and habitat is restored throughout the Pine Bush.



11:00-12:00pm

Andrew Hinickle, Conservation Biologist, Audubon of New York
The Role of Young Forest in Supporting Healthy and Diverse Bird Populations

Maturing forestlands coupled with a lack of natural disturbances and silviculture have resulted in even-aged forests that are incapable of supporting the full suite of forest-breeding birds. This presentation will focus on conservation of Golden-winged Warbler and associated species in forests and idle farmland of New York.

Andy Hinickle is Audubon New York's Conservation Biologist within the Conservation and Science Department, located at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca. Andy leads Audubon's young forest (shrubland), and grassland bird conservation efforts, with an emphasis on working with private and public landowners within Important Bird Areas and other focus areas. He works closely with partner agencies and organizations to engage landowners in cost-share or other incentive programs, writing conservation and management plans for project sites, and monitoring the bird response to management activities. Andy came to Audubon in 2011 from the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, where he was employed as a term Wildlife Biologist. Prior to that, he held positions with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, monitoring, restoring and maintaining a variety of habitat types on public and private lands. Andy has a BS from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

12:30-1:30pm (optional Lunch talk)

Gary Ferguson, Executive Director of the Downtown Ithaca Alliance
Designing and Building the New Ithaca Commons and Its Impact on Downtown Development

Gary Ferguson has been the Executive Director of the DIA since 1999. Gary has previous experience with the cities of Lewiston, ME; Dayton, OH; and Grand Junction, CO. He specializes in business attraction and retention, urban design, public policy and strategic planning.



1:30-2:30pm

Uli Lorimer, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens

Locally Sourced: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Expands its Native Flora Collection

Brooklyn Botanic Garden expanded its native flora collection in 2013 using only plant material grown from seed collected in the wild from local populations. This garden acknowledges the tremendous benefits of using native plant species with local provenance as a way to support biodiversity and genetic diversity. This approach is unique amongst botanic garden construction projects and the resulting garden is complex, layered, and dynamic. The talk will discuss the design history and intent along with the plant sourcing process and the success and failures which have accompanied the ongoing development of the garden.

The attached photo labeled "View to Council Ring early July" should accompany this talk.

Uli Lorimer is curator of the Native Flora Garden. The Delaware native grew up with an interest in all things green, and after receiving an honors degree from the University of Delaware in landscape horticulture, he moved to New York City to become the woodland gardener at Wave Hill. Since becoming curator of BBG's Native Flora Garden, Uli has tended its historic collection and been instrumental in expanding the garden to include a coastal plain meadow and Pine Barrens habitat. In his ongoing efforts to collect seed from the wild and bring to the garden rare and unusual indigenous species, Uli works closely with other botanists in the New York region to document and study the biodiversity of our area.

2:30-3:30pm

Ernest Williams, William R. Kenan Professor of Biology Emeritus at Hamilton College

Monarchs, Milkweeds, and Migration

The remarkable migration of monarch butterflies depends on milkweeds and nectar sources on the breeding grounds and the presence of undisturbed forest on the overwintering grounds. I'll describe threats to the continued migration of monarchs and their current status.

Through fieldwork in New York, Wyoming and Mexico, and in collaboration with Hamilton students, Ernest H. Williams, Jr. studies the population biology, chemical ecology and conservation of butterflies. Often quoted in national media outlets, most recently on the topic of monarch population decline, he is author of *The Nature Handbook: A Guide to Observing the Great Outdoors* (2005) and co-author of *The Stokes Butterfly Book* (1991). His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Insect Conservation*, the *Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society*, the *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Restoration Ecology*, *The Journal of Biogeography* and *American Butterflies*. Williams, who serves on the board of the Monarch Butterfly Fund, is involved with habitat restoration and management in the Rome Sand Plains of Central New York. He earned his undergraduate degree from Trinity College in Connecticut and his master's degree and doctorate from Princeton University.



3:45-4:45pm

Laura Hansplant, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP, Director of Design at Roofmeadow

Frontiers in Sustainable Landscape Design: looking beyond the native plant list.

This session will examine some of the emerging challenges in incorporating native plant communities into familiar urban and near-urban landscapes, including considerations of scale, designing for resilience, and evaluating the significance of pattern. The discussion will also emphasize the importance of cultural expectations and their implications for ecologically-based planting design. Examples will be drawn from both public and natural landscapes."

Laura joined Roofmeadow in 2012 as Director of Design, bringing her passion for sustainable landscapes that inspire, educate and promote wellbeing. Laura's dedication to landscapes that work as living systems evolved during her 15 years of designing elegant, sustainable landscapes with Andropogon Associates, where she worked on prestigious projects such as Sidwell Friends Middle School and the Phipps Conservatory's Center for Sustainable Landscapes. Laura integrates social spaces, rainwater systems and plant communities to create meaningful places where each element serves to mutually support the whole site. Born in Canada, Laura studied at the University of Toronto and the Pennsylvania State University, where she received a Masters in Landscape Architecture with a minor in ecology.

SATURDAY SPEAKERS

9:00-10:00am

Uli Lorimer, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens

Botanical Fieldwork Made Me A Better Gardener

The best way to learn about native plant species is to observe them in context, in the wild. By spending time in the field, a gardener can begin to understand the forces which shape our landscapes and how those forces can inform plant choice and placement. Drawing on over a decade of field experience, this talk will explore how disturbance and plant succession are valuable tools for any gardener or designer working with native plants.

Uli Lorimer is curator of the Native Flora Garden. The Delaware native grew up with an interest in all things green, and after receiving an honors degree from the University of Delaware in landscape horticulture, he moved to New York City to become the woodland gardener at Wave Hill. Since becoming curator of BBG's Native Flora Garden, Uli has tended its historic collection and been instrumental in expanding the garden to include a coastal plain meadow and Pine Barrens habitat. In his ongoing efforts to collect seed from the wild and bring to the garden rare and unusual indigenous species, Uli works closely with other botanists in the New York region to document and study the biodiversity of our area.

10:00-11:00am



Chris McHugh, Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI), Hampton Bays, NY
Local native seed and plant availability for a distinct region

Chris will explain the unusual partnerships that LINPI has developed between their membership of public volunteers and a few staff people, local government agencies, and private companies. This group of partners has helped raise awareness of the importance of using locally adapted native plants in this challenging and unusual environment, and they've also worked to boost the supply of locally adapted native plants for the unique environment of Long Island.

The Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) is an all-volunteer cooperative effort of over 30 non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, nursery professionals, and citizens. The mission of this organization is to protect the genetic integrity and heritage of Long Island native plant populations and thus biodiversity from a landscape to genetic level, by establishing commercial sources of genetically appropriate local (ecotypic) plant materials for use in nursery, landscaping and habitat restoration activities.

11:15-12:15pm

Akiva Silver, Owner of Twisted Tree Farm, Spencer, NY
Native Fruits and Nuts of the Northeast

Akiva will present on the importance of nut trees and other native trees in our landscapes—both natural landscapes and the ones we create. His talk will focus on the ecology of these keystone species, as well as the aesthetic and cultural value they add.

If you have not seen Akiva present before, you will enjoy his irresistible blend of wit, humor, deep knowledge and love for plants. Akiva commonly draws an audience 2 or 3 times larger than other speakers when he leads walks or presents locally about trees, native plants, edible plants or various other topics related to natural, healthy and sustainable horticulture. His nursery, which is also his family's homestead south of Ithaca, offers a glimpse towards clean, healthy, small-scale nursery production. We have known Akiva for about 10 years because he was one of the first Plantsmen employees, and it has been a pleasure to see him take a place in the local nursery industry as well as the global movement towards sustainable plant production.

1:30-2:30pm

Laura Hansplant, RLA, ASLA, LEED AP, Director of Design at Roofmeadow
Pioneering the Urban Plateau: applying meadow design principles to green roofs and similar depth-limited landscapes. (green roof ecology; relevance to other urban settings and green infrastructure strategies; lessons learned from pilot projects in green roof succession; comparative native plant establishment strategies; field observations about cultivar performance)



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2:30-3:30pm

Dan Segal, Owner of The Plantsmen Nursery

Traits, Regionalism and Availability of Native Plants

Dan's talk will address the real relationship between plant traits as we perceive them, and their environmental origins, which we often don't think about. He will explain how traits, and their environmental basis, often influence plant availability, and how the chain of relationships -- traits, environmental origins and availability -- can and should guide our use of most native species as well.

Dan and his wife Sarah have owned The Plantsmen since 2006. Dan has worked with native plants for over 20 years, in California, the Mid-Atlantic, and New York. His areas of expertise include ecological restoration, residential landscaping, plant propagation, plant bio-geography, and the study of native plant communities. His experience collecting and propagating over 1000 species of plants is a big part of what makes The Plantsmen Nursery unique among other nurseries and landscape companies.