

2024 SPRING LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

THE
NATIVE
PLANT CENTER

AT WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Designing Native Landscapes

How the Pros Select Plants

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024, 8:30 AM–1 PM, IN PERSON
Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium

Native plants are the “go-to” species for gardeners who value a sustainable environment. Yet, which factors determine what is a native plant? The diverging viewpoints can lead to provocative debate. Find out what guides the decisions of those in the industry—the professionals who design private and public landscapes, sell nursery plants, and write and teach about natives—and how they choose the materials they use.

8:30–9 AM: Registration/Continental breakfast

9–9:15 AM: Welcome

9:15–10 AM: Edwina von Gal
The Path to PRFCT



Landowners have cut and sprayed their landscapes into human ideals of perfection, harming the earth and themselves. Now facing massive biodiversity loss and health crises, we need to embrace change together.

You can have a beautiful—and immensely rewarding—garden without toxic practices. Learn how to re-envision your garden with Perfect Earth’s approach in finding the Path to PRFCT.

Edwina von Gal is a retired landscape designer and the founder and board chair of the Perfect Earth Project, a nonprofit dedicated to toxic-free, nature-based land care. Her award-winning designs focused on simplicity, sustainability, and beauty for public and private clients worldwide. She has served on numerous horticultural boards and committees, including What is Missing, Maya Lin’s multimedia artwork about the loss of biodiversity.

10–10:45 AM: Andi Pettis
Public Space Parameters



When designing public spaces in urban settings, a host of conditions need to be faced: poor or manufactured soil, tough ecological surroundings, high-volume visitation, mandated maintenance aesthetics. Find out about the decisions involved in selecting plants that can match the demands and survive in the harsh environments of two of New York City’s iconic public spaces: the High Line and Governors Island.

Andi Pettis is Senior Director of Horticulture at the Trust for Governors Island, a 172-acre island in New York Harbor. Previously, she was Director of Horticulture at the High Line, and has more than 20 years of experience in private and public garden and parks management.

10:45–11 AM: Break

Snow date: Friday, March 15.
Program subject to change.



11–11:45 AM: Carolyn Summers
Book ’em: Plants that Make the Grade



Writers and teachers can reach wide audiences with their messages of sustainable landscaping. Discover how one respected author and instructor determines which indigenous plants and cultivars to include in her book and classes, and how she defines “native.”

Carolyn Summers has worked for environmental non-profits and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Her book, Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East, was revised with co-author Kate Brittenham and will be released in February. Carolyn is a Steering Committee member of The Native Plant Center and teaches sustainable gardening at Go Native U at Westchester Community College.

11:45 AM–12:30 PM: Darryl Newman
Balancing Ecology with Economics



Native plant enthusiasts are bound in their garden selections by what is available for purchase. So how do nurseries decide what to sell, and how do they balance sometimes difficult demands with turning a profit?

Darryl Newman is co-owner of Planters’ Choice Nursery, a Connecticut-based grower and wholesaler founded by his father in 1970. Darryl worked for landscape design/build firms before returning to Planters’ Choice in 2004. He holds a degree in Landscape Management from the University of Maryland and is a past president of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association. He has presented to numerous trade associations and institutions throughout the Northeast.

12:30–1 PM: Wrap-up, book signing, networking

REGISTER BY MARCH 7

\$85 MEMBERS/\$125 NON-MEMBERS
www.sunybcc.edu/slc2024

EARN PROFESSIONAL CREDITS

3 LA-CES, others pending