WOODY
PLANT
CONFERENCE

Friday, July 19, 2019
Lang Performing Arts Center
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, PA

woodyplantconference.org

Photo Credit: Claire Sundquist

About our speakers

NINA BASSUK has been a professor and program leader of the Urban Horticulture Institute at Cornell University for the past 38 years. She is a member of the New York State Urban Forestry Council and co-author of Trees in the Urban Landscape, a text for landscape architects and horticultural practitioners on establishing trees in disturbed and urban landscapes. In addition, Nina has authored over 100 papers on the physiological problems of plants growing in urban environments. She received the Scott Garden & Horticultural Award in 2008.

BERND BLOSSEY was born and raised in northern Germany. In 1992, he began work at Cornell University, where he is an associate professor in the Department of Natural Resources. Bernd develops and implements biological weed control programs; among his target plants are purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and Phragmites. An ever-increasing focus of his team is investigating the impacts of multiple stressors on plants, including deer and earthworms.

ED BOWEN has been a gardener and nurseryman for more than two decades. Until 2018 he was proprietor of Opus Plants, a small nursery in Rhode Island, selecting and growing under-cultivated, garden-worthy herbaceous plants. Now, with Taylor Johnston, he is one half of the nursery and design studio, issima. He is a garden writer, lecturer, and has grown thousands of hydrangeas from seed.

PATRICK MCMILLAN is director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden and Hilliard Professor of Environmental Sustainability at Clemson University. He is the host, producer and editor of the six-time Emmy Award-winning “Expeditions with Patrick McMillan” seen on PBS. Patrick attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a B.S. in biology, and Clemson University where he received his Ph.D.

DAVID RUBIN founding principal of DAVID RUBIN Land Collective, devotes himself to crafting landscapes that affect positive social change through empathy-driven design. He is responsible for the design of Canal Park in Washington, D.C., Lenfest Plaza at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the University of Pennsylvania’s new Pennovation Campus, The Commonground at Eskenazi Health Hospital, the Indianapolis Museum of Art Master Plan, and the Cummins DBU Headquarters, in Indianapolis. His studio’s work includes diverse typologies in Los Angeles, Rome, New York City, Washington, D.C., the Cayman Islands, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and Philadelphia.

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11:30 – 12:20 Registration and Coffee

12:20 – 1:20 Lunch: Book and Raffle Ticket Sales

1:20 – 2:10 Gardeners’ Voices

2:10 – 3:00 Wild Collecting: 10 Lessons from the Southeast U.S. – Cat Meholic

3:00 – 3:25 Summer’s Over: Looking to the Future of Hydrangea and Hydrangeaceae – Ed Bowen

3:30 – 4:30 Planting for Life: Woody Plants that Generate Diversity – Patrick McMillan

4:30 – 5:30 Reception: Mix and mingle with speakers and horticulture professionals. $20

5:45 Last Shuttle to Springfield Mall Parking Lot

11:30 – 12:20 Worms in the Woods: Effects of Ecosystem Engineers on Native Organisms – Bernd Blossey

2:10 – 3:00 Beetles: The People’s Bug – Samantha Nestory

3:30 – 4:30 Commercial hydrangea introductions of the past century have focused on a few now widely used species. Recent advances, wild collections, and breeding, as well as re-evaluation of the literature, challenges traditional thinking about culture and relationships between species and genera. This creates an intriguing and distinctive commercial future for the genus and the family.

Break: Last Chance to Buy Books and Raffle Tickets

New Hybrid Oaks and Other Tough Trees for the Urban Environment – Nina Bassuk

Cornell University’s Urban Horticulture Institute (UHI) sees the potential for an increased use of appropriate oak species in our cities and towns, and their usefulness for increasing biodiversity and resiliency in the urban forest. One research focus of the UHI involves the selection, evaluation, and propagation of superior species for urban environments.

With the goal of expanding the palette of oaks that will thrive in temperate urban landscapes, UHI has been developing, evaluating, and selecting hybrid oaks since 2004. The ultimate goal of this project is to introduce superior hybrid oak selections into the nursery trade.

Registration and Coffee

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome – Claire Sawyers, Director, Scott Arboretum

9:15 – 10:15 The City is a Landscape: Design through a Gardener’s Lens – David Rubin

David A. Rubin practices landscape architecture with a simple mission and big ambitions: to positively inform the world and improve the human condition through landscape. Working on the scale of civic plazas, parks, and campuses, David is a gardener at heart. In this presentation, he will explore how socially purposeful landscapes can create positive change through cross-disciplinary collaborations and the synthesis of art, technology, and the social sciences.

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