

# 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL LAHR SYMPOSIUM



# INDIGEN NATIVE PLANTS:

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
MARCH 28, 2009

## SPEAKERS

**Professor Warren T. Byrd, Jr.**, FASLA, is a founding principal of the highly acclaimed firm Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. He has served as professor and chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia and has received numerous awards for design, teaching, and writing. His areas of expertise include sustainable residential and commercial landscape design, site planning, and arboretum and botanic garden design. His projects have been implemented around the world and have included collaborations on innovative storm water strategies, promotion and protection of local plant communities, and blending cultural and natural site histories.

**Dr. Richard Olsen** is a research geneticist and the lead scientist for the urban tree breeding program at the U.S. National Arboretum. His career has been influenced by the deans of horticulture in America, including his thesis advisor, the acclaimed plant breeder Dr. Thomas Ranney of North Carolina State University; collaborator Michael Dirr; and teacher JC Raulston, for whom the NC State Arboretum is named. Richard's current projects include developing new and selecting existing species of trees that are especially suited for urban landscapes. His extensive knowledge of woody plants gives him special insight into which trees landscape designers should consider, including lesser-known choices that are deserving of greater attention.

**Claire Sawyers** has been director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College since 1990, where she has guided the development of one of the most dynamic and well regarded landscapes in the United States. Before coming to Swarthmore she had already received degrees in horticulture and public garden administration, gardened in Japan, Belgium, and France, and worked for seven years at the Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora. In her recently published book, "The Authentic Garden," Claire outlines simple principles that provide a coherent foundation for creating authentic landscapes.

**Sandra Youssef Clinton**, FASLA, is president of Clinton & Associates Landscape Architects, providing design services to residential, commercial, and institutional clients. Her award-winning designs are inspired by the natural environment, incorporating a variety of natural elements and native plants to create beautiful, sustainable, and functional landscapes. Sandra worked as a senior associate with Oehme, van Sweden and Associates until she founded her own firm in 1998. She has extensive knowledge of plant materials, and her melding of good design and intelligent plant selection has led to a number of her gardens being featured in publications such as the *Washington Post* and *Garden Design Magazine*.

**Richard Murray's** lifelong interest in ecology led him to a career in arboriculture, which he has enjoyed for 35 years. He recently published "The Tree Biology Notebook: An Introduction to the Science and Ecology of Trees," in which he offers a holistic perspective of tree ecology, including how trees interact with their environment and how they affect our lives. Richard studied extensively with the late Dr. Alex Shigo, educator and plant pathologist, who is widely considered the "father of modern arboriculture." Richard, currently a licensed Maryland Tree Expert and an ISA Certified Arborist, owns and operates Shannon Tree and Landscaping, Inc.

**Chris Upton's** diverse horticultural background includes his current tenure at the U.S. National Arboretum, over ten years designing landscapes, six years with Behnke Nurseries Co., and two years as the head horticulturist for a prestigious estate in Washington, DC. Four of his six years here at the arboretum were spent gardening in the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection. Chris has drawn over one thousand residential and institutional garden plans for clients in the DC Metropolitan area. Over the past few years, he has worked with clients to incorporate the spirit of natural landscapes into their gardens passing on his love of our native flora. Besides being a true connoisseur of garden plants, Chris pursues a variety of other interests including photography, geology, and philosophy.



# 23rd ANNUAL LAHR SYMPOSIUM

## NATIVE PLANTS: IN DESIGN

The 23rd annual Lahr Symposium explores the many ways that native plants are essential to today's landscape architecture and garden design. Valued for their varied ecological functions, cultural iconography, and inherent beauty, natives are a critical element of successful design. The following presentations will foster an informed and progressive use of native plants for designing and managing landscapes for our homes, neighborhoods, commercial and public spaces.

**8:30 Registration and Early-bird Plant Sale**

**9:30 Welcome and Introduction - Joan Feely**

**9:40 Creating an Authentic Garden**

**Claire Sawyers** will explore the idea of an authentic American garden style. Recognizing our mix of devotions to imported styles, from the English country garden to classic Japanese landscapes, Claire will establish a framework for an American style that is both deeply rooted in its natural surroundings and deeply satisfying to its creators and owners. She will illustrate through private and public gardens how the echoes of the natural world are essential to five simple principles of design that make a garden true to a specific time, place, and culture. Understand how gardens can capture and reflect an authentic spirit, while nurturing the spirit of those who cherish and dwell in it.

**10:45 Refreshment Break**

**11:00 Can We Return Diversity to the Urban Forest?**

**Richard Olsen** has seen the diversity of native trees decline precipitously in our residential and shared landscapes over the past two decades. A keen observer of landscapes and a plant geneticist devoted to trees, Richard will describe the relatively high level of diversity that made up our urban and suburban tree canopy in the mid-20th century – a canopy that once shaded our streets and provided backdrops to our gardens. He will discuss the factors that allowed such diversity to exist in the past and why we are losing that diversity today. Learn how gardeners, land managers, and landscape designers can counter destructive practices and trends in order to help rebuild our urban forests.

**12:00 Lunch and Plant Sale**

**1:15 Concurrent Sessions — Select one among:**

**2:15 An Eye for the Natural and the Art of Design**

**Warren Byrd** will present examples of the innovative approach to landscape architecture that he teaches and practices with his firm Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. Intrinsic to his philosophy of design is the need to understand the true character of a landscape both culturally and ecologically. It is with this foundation that Warren strives for a successional approach to landscape development where landscapes sustain themselves as well as people. A pioneer of sustainable design, Warren will explore such projects as the Dell at the University of Virginia, where a storm water management project transformed a worn-out landscape into a popular and dynamic wetland and streamside park.

### A. Moving Toward Natives

**Sandra Clinton** will share how her practice of landscape architecture is changing in this new age of design, a time when it is accepted that using more native plants can decrease the need for watering and fertilizing, increase plant diversity, improve animal habitat, and encourage the return of bees, birds, and butterflies. She will use images of her work and the work of others to demonstrate how incorporating native plants in commercial and residential designs can be done successfully and artistically.

### B. From the Tree's Perspective

**Richard Murray** will present what he knows about growing and preserving trees successfully, and he'll do it from the tree's perspective! He will cover the basics of tree biology and how trees influence ecological associations and processes. Using samples and a hands-on approach to learning about a tree's above- and below-ground parts, he will show us how we can improve our efforts to establish and preserve trees for their maximum lifespan.

### C. Shifting the Balance

**Chris Upton** will describe how he helps clients shift the balance of their designed spaces to include more native plants. Learn the how, what, where, and a bit of when, to gracefully insert native plants into existing plantings. Featuring 25 wonderful species, he will show how your garden can achieve the dual goals of complementing and connecting to local biodiversity while creating beautiful and interesting spaces.

## Friends of the National Arboretum

### Native Plant Sale:

Opens to the general public at 9:30 a.m.

Closes to all at 2:00 p.m.

We would like to thank the

Friends of the National Arboretum

for sponsoring the Native Plant Sale.

A portion of the sale proceeds helps support the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection.

*The U.S. National Arboretum is a part of the  
USDA Agricultural Research Service*

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## Registration Form

**Registration fee includes lunch: \$85 (FONA \$68) To register:**

1. Register online with credit card or check at [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or:
2. Send this form and check, payable to US National Arboretum, to:  
U.S. National Arboretum  
3501 New York Ave. NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Attn: Event Registration

NAME

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

**No cancellation refunds after March 21**

Please select one concurrent session:

- A. Moving Toward Natives**  
 **B. From the Tree's Perspective**  
 **C. Shifting the Balance**

Please check if you would like to receive:

- directions to the National Arboretum  
 list of local accommodations  
 vegetarian lunch

Symposium proceeds support the Lahr Internship in the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection

**For more information about the Lahr Symposium**  
visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov)  
or call 202-245-5898