



Grow Native  Massachusetts *presents* 

EVENINGS WITH EXPERTS: 2017

A Public Lecture Series at the Cambridge Public Library ~ 449 Broadway

First Wednesdays

February through May
7:00-8:30 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US!
Events are free and
open to all.



 **February 1**
**Nurturing the
Liberated Landscape**
*Larry Weaner, Author of
Garden Revolution
& Founder of Larry Weaner
Landscape Associates*

All too often we think of gardens and landscapes as static compositions of carefully placed and managed plants. But a more dynamic approach takes advantage of the unique characteristics of plant species and communities, working with ecological processes, not against them. Learn how designer Larry Weaner utilizes the natural adaptations and reproductive abilities of plants to create engaging, ever-evolving landscapes that bring new meaning to partnering with nature. Using examples from his property and client projects, Larry will share how this give-and-take approach results in compelling, low-maintenance landscapes that free plants to perform according to their natural abilities and liberate people from having to cater to their landscapes' every need. *Larry Weaner is nationally recognized for integrating landscape design with ecology.*

 **March 1**
**The Art and Science of
Growing Native Plants from
Seed: Why, When, and How**
*Randi Eckel, Founder of Toadshade
Wildflower Farm*

As we incorporate more native plants into our landscapes, there are so many good reasons to use plants propagated from seed. But wild plants have evolved with a dizzying array of mechanisms, including chemical-induced dormancy and mandatory cold stratification, to ensure that their seeds disperse, persevere, and germinate at just the right time under natural conditions. These mechanisms are not in place to frustrate would-be plant propagators, but must be understood to successfully grow native plants from seed. Come for a far-reaching discussion of the issues surrounding seed collection, procurement, and propagation, with information that will encourage the novice and challenge the professional alike. *Randi Eckel has been studying native plant seed propagation and plant-insect interactions for over thirty years.*

 **April 5**
**How Native Plant Cultivars
Affect Pollinators**
*Annie White, Ecological Landscape
Designer & Adjunct Professor,
University of Vermont*

Initiatives to address pollinator decline are widespread and native plants are the preferred choice for pollinator habitat restoration. The growing demand for natives, coupled with the desire of horticulturists for specific characteristics, has led to the increased selection and breeding of native cultivars. Although these cultivars are typically marketed for their ecological benefits, until now there have been no scientific studies to support or refute these claims. So are native cultivars as valuable in pollinator habitat gardens as the true native species? Annie White will help answer this question by sharing the results of four years of field data. Her research is groundbreaking and remarkable. *Annie White is the founder of Nectar Landscape Design.*

 **May 3**
**The Challenge of a Public
Native Plant Garden:
Maintenance, Interpretation
and Compromise**
*Michael Hagen, Curator of the
Native Plant Garden at the NYBG*

The New York Botanical Garden's new Native Plant Garden opened in 2013. Designed by Oehme van Sweden, it includes a diversity of microclimates on 3.5 acres of varied terrain with a planting plan of almost 100,000 native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and grasses. Curator Michael Hagen will explain how this garden is successfully maintained, and their criteria for what constitutes "native" in species selection and the use of cultivars. This very public landscape presents native plants in a contemporary style, with an emphasis on aesthetics over recreating habitat. Learn about the public response to this native plant palette, and inspiring others to "go native." *Michael Hagen is Curator of the Native Plant Garden and Rock Garden at NYBG.*

www.grownativemass.org

*Thank you to the Cambridge Public Library for its partnership in producing these programs.
Visit www.grownativemass.org/programs/eveningswithexperts for CEUs, transit and parking info.*

Photography: Claudia Thompson and
Meredith Gallogly
Design: Cynthia Frawley

Every garden matters ~ Every landscape counts®