

**American Public Gardens Association
Native Plants / Plant Conservation Symposium**

Partnerships for Protecting Plants and Habitats

October 25-27, 2017

Framingham, MA

Speaker/Panelist Biographies

Opening and Closing Speakers

Dr. John R. Clark

John serves a dual role as president and chief executive officer of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) and as Director of Plant Collections and Strategy at San Diego Zoo Global.

John and CPC Board Chairman Dr. Peter Raven successfully lead an initiative to relocate the CPC's National Headquarters from St. Louis to San Diego Zoo Global. Here, John continues to lead the CPC's national efforts to save endangered plants through scientific research, applied conservation, and technology innovation. While John's training and background is in basic research, his particular passion is for developing strong collaborations – bringing together world experts in a variety of disciplines – to achieve measurable conservation outcomes.

Dr. David Foster

David Foster is an ecologist and author of *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape* (2010; Harvard University), *Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge* (2014; Yale University Press), and *A Meeting of Land and Sea: Nature and the Future of Martha's Vineyard* (2017; Yale University Press). He has been a faculty member in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard since 1983 and Director of the Harvard Forest, the University's 4000-acre ecological laboratory and classroom in central Massachusetts since 1990. David is the Principal Investigator for the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research program, involving more than 100 scientists and students investigating the dynamics of New England landscape as a consequence of climate change, human activity, and natural disturbance. David has a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota and has conducted studies in the boreal forests of Labrador, Sweden and Norway and the forests of Puerto Rico, the Yucatan, and Patagonia in addition to his primary research on landscape dynamics in New England. His interests focus on understanding the changes in forest ecosystems that result from human and natural disturbance and applying these results to the conservation and management of natural and cultural landscapes. He currently serves on the boards of The Nature Conservancy, The Trustees of Reservations, Choate Rosemary Hall and Highstead Foundation. As part of his conservation work David and colleagues developed *Wildlands and Woodlands – A Vision for the New England Landscape*, which lays out an ambitious plan for the protection and conservation of forest and farmland across the region. In September 2010 *Wildlands and Woodlands* received the Charles Eliot Award from the Trustees of Reservations.

Moderators/Presenters/Panelists

Dan Bensonoff

Dan Bensonoff is the NOFA Policy Director & Education Events Organizer. Dan trained alongside NOFA's long-standing policy director, Jack Kittredge, as he transitioned into his new role at NOFA/Mass soil carbon analyst. In this role, Dan continues NOFA's policy work in keeping with the basic values: respect for the land and solidarity with organic farmers. NOFA continues the fight to keep organic farming true to its principles, and campaigns for legislation that minimizes unnecessary government regulations while enhancing a thriving local food economy.

Pat Bigelow

Pat Bigelow is President of Bigelow Nurseries, Inc. a large central Massachusetts nursery grower that celebrated its 100th year in 2015. Joining the family business in 1970, she worked in all aspects of the company with particular emphasis on production of herbaceous and woody native plants. Since becoming President of the company, she has guided its management and financial restructuring, revitalizing both field and container production and systems for the next generation.

She has been extremely active in nursery and horticultural associations and is past president of the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, New England Nursery Association, Horticultural Research Institute, and Horticultural Club of Boston. She has also received the Gold Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and volunteer awards from both state and national nursery associations.

She presently serves on the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG) and is a charter member, also serving on the MNLA Legislative committee, HRI Outreach Committee, and also as a Trustee at Tower Hill Botanical Garden - serving on the Horticulture, Finance, and Implementation Committees.

Pat has lived on the nursery's Boylston farm for forty years and has three children, Katie, Jeffrey, and Luke. Her sons, fourth generation, both work for the company with her oldest son (Jeffrey) now in management. She also has happily welcomed four grandchildren (Rylee, Izaiah, Lillia and Reese) in the past three years.

Dr. Anne Frances

Anne Frances, Ph.D., is Lead Botanist at NatureServe, where she guides plant conservation activities and supports the NatureServe Network. She leads NatureServe's Global Ranking and Climate Change Vulnerability projects, and currently serves as the North American Plant Red List Authority. Anne credits her internship at the North Carolina Botanical Garden for her interest in conserving native plants through propagation, an interest further solidified through work at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Anne has a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, an M.S. from Florida International University, and a B.A. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She serves as Affiliate Faculty at George Mason University.

Dr. Jim Graves

Jim grew up in East Tennessee, and from an early age took to the woods and natural history in the species-rich forests near home. He completed his B.S. in Biology at Rhodes College, and developed his interest in plant-soil relations during his Master's thesis study of differences in forest floor vegetation over marble and schist parent rock at the University of Georgia. For his dissertation at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Jim tested new theory to predict the relative abundance of herbaceous and woody plants in forest floors. At Green Mountain

College, Jim's basic research focus in plant ecology remains the influence of soil conditions on plant distribution. Recently, his applied interests have led him to study factors that alter plant succession in Riparian and Clay Plain soils, to test the efficacy of restoration planting methods, to study the response of vegetation to ice storm damage, and to investigate ecological applications in campus land management. His other interests are broad, and include the biochemistry of secondary plant compounds, effects of disturbance and species invasions on nutrient cycling, the coevolution of fruits and avian frugivores, relationships between plant morphology and the environment, plant geography, the influence of land use patterns on ecosystem processes, plant propagation, and understory restoration in forest communities.

Amy Highland

Amy Highland is the Director of Collections at Mt. Cuba Center. She obtained her degree in Public Horticulture from Purdue University. In 2006 she joined Mt. Cuba Center as the Plant Recorder and in 2012 she became our first Curator. Soon after, Amy was named Director of Collections and now oversees both living and non-living collections for the Center. Currently she is engaged in expanding the genetic diversity of the gardens and developing standards for our Core Collections.

Leslie Hunter Cario

As the principal of Chesapeake Horticultural Services, LLC, Leslie Hunter Cario works as an independent consultant to non-profit organizations, nurseries, and landscape operations. With a focus on native plants and conservation landscaping, this horticultural work encompasses production planning, research, nutrient management, and training. Involved with the native plant industry since 1997, Leslie's previous experience includes directing a wetland plant nursery with a strong emphasis on propagating native species from local ecotypes, as well as collecting seeds and growing plants for a major seed supplier. She is a Certified Professional Horticulturist, LEAD Maryland fellow, and Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional.

Uli Lorimer

Uli Lorimer works as the Curator of Native Flora at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. He is an avid plantsman and photographer. His professional goals are to connect field botany with native plant horticulture and designed spaces through his work at BBG, through seeding collecting and banking, conferences and symposia and via partnerships with regional botanists and native plant nurseries. Uli loves to share his passion for the natural world and teaches for BBG, NYBG and NYC Farm School. In addition, he serves as the Field Chair for the Torrey Botanical Society.

Dr. Lucinda McDade

Executive Director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden since 2013, Lucinda holds a Ph.D. in botany from Duke University. She has been Director of Research at Rancho Santa Ana since 2006 and continues to hold this title. Before joining RSABG, Lucinda was Curator of Botany at the Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia), on the faculty at the University of Arizona, and led the science and education programs for the Organization for Tropical Studies. As a research scientist, her focus is on the large plant family Acanthaceae which she has studied most extensively in the Americas, but also in Africa.

Abby Meyer

Abby works to catalyze plant conservation activities through BGCI's network and tools. One of her main areas of focus is improving BGCI's data services and increasing awareness of the resources available to living collections. Prior to joining BGCI U.S., Abby completed the Longwood Graduate Program at Longwood Gardens and the University of Delaware, and worked as a Putnam Research Fellow at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Abby's office is based in southern California. She currently serves on the Board of the Magnolia Society International, recruits for the Plant Collections Network, advises graduate student research, and facilitates Earthwatch Expeditions for teens to assist with conservation research worldwide.

Mary Phillips

Mary has led National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program since 2014, helping people create habitat where they live, work, play, learn and worship and annually recognizes approximately 10,000 Certified Wildlife Habitats.

Ms. Phillips also coordinates NWF's pollinator and monarch strategy which includes co-founding the National Pollinator Garden Network and co-launching the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge with over 50 national conservation, garden trade, federal and voluntary civics organizations. In addition, she launched and managed NWF's Butterfly Heroes campaign funded by the Disney Conservation Fund which has recruited 150,000 participant monarch pollinator gardens. She managed NWF's three year MOU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to "Save the Monarch" and is a member of the Monarch Joint Venture steering committee. Mary facilitates an NWF internal team that integrates the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, I-35 corridor rights of way habitat work and the NWF's affiliate led Habitat Networks Caucus.

Prior to NWF, Ms. Phillips operated The Abundant Backyard for five years providing conservation landscaping consultation. At the same time she provided organizational development consultation as principal of MDP Strategies, a nonprofit management practice she founded 20 years prior serving environment and health and human service agencies.

Michael Piantedosi

Michael Piantedosi began his career in plant biology as a researcher in cyanobacteria and freshwater plant communities at the Univ. of New Hampshire, where he received a degree in Plant Biology. His botanical background also includes occupation in regional herbaria, sustainable agricultural roles, as Horticulturalist at Museum of Science – Boston, and as researcher with Woodman Horticultural Experiment Farm with UNH Cooperative Extension. In 2014, he joined the Conservation Department of New England Wild Flower Society as manager of the New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP) and the Society's regional seedbank of rare and endangered plant taxa.

Carrie Radcliffe

Carrie Radcliffe is the Restoration & Safeguarding Database Manager at Atlanta Botanical Garden and serves as Mountain Bog Project Coordinator for the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance. In addition to serving as Vice-Chair for the Plant Conservation Section of the American Public Gardens Association, Carrie is a Steering Committee member for the Southern Blue Ridge Bog Learning Network. She coordinated the Southeastern Partners in

Plant Conservation conference. This effort brought together government agencies, land managers, botanical gardens, and university programs to inform each other on best practices and topics relevant to rare plant conservation and support regional efforts for at-risk plant species in the Southeast. Carrie holds a MS in Horticulture with a focus on Conservation and Plant Biology from the University of Georgia.

Mark Richardson

Mark Richardson oversees the New England Wild Flower Society's botanic garden, Garden in the Woods, and its native plant nursery operation, Nasami Farm in Whately, Massachusetts. He studied ornamental horticulture at University of Rhode Island and helped run a mid-sized ornamental plant nursery before finding his true passion in public horticulture. He led undergraduate programs at Longwood Gardens, overhauled the curriculum of the Professional Gardener Program, and oversaw adult education at Brookside Gardens. In 2013, Mr. Richardson assisted with the development of the first comprehensive master plan for Garden in the Woods. He holds a MS from the University of Delaware's Longwood Graduate Program.

Dr. Casey Sclar

Casey is the Executive Director of the American Public Gardens Association. Their team connects, protects, and champions over 600 gardens and their 9300+ allied members located throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, and 24 other countries. Casey connects plants, people, and the environment. He sits on the Advisory Council for Seed Your Future (a nationwide movement to promote careers in horticulture), is the Inaugural Chair of the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (a collaborative effort to set national research priorities for the end-use horticulture industry and raise awareness of its contributions to our health, economy, and the environment), recently began service on the board of the Xerces Society, and is active in movements and organizations that promote pollinator and plant conservation, while mitigating the threats of invasive species.

Dr. Murphy Westwood

Murphy Westwood runs the Global Tree Conservation Program at The Morton Arboretum. The mission of the program is to save trees from extinction through global collaborations. Murphy works closely with colleagues from botanical gardens, universities, and other sectors in strategic locations like China, Europe, and Mexico, as well as throughout the United States, to develop conservation projects targeting key threatened tree species, especially oaks (genus *Quercus*). She also creates tools, guidelines, publications and other resources to build capacity and catalyze action for tree conservation. Additionally, Murphy is a Global Tree Conservation Officer for Botanic Gardens Conservation International and works to build support for the Global Trees Campaign, the only global conservation program dedicated to saving all of the world's threatened tree species. Murphy also manages ArbNet, the interactive, global community of arboreta and tree-focused professionals. She facilitates the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and develops resources and content for the ArbNet website.

Dr. Annie White

Owner and Principal Designer, Annie White, is a native of rural Vermont, and brings both academic training and years of professional experience to her design work. She holds a Master of Science degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and a PhD in Plant & Soil Science from The University of Vermont. Having lived and worked in a diversity of landscapes and climates spanning from Hawaii to Italy, Annie's design work is especially respectful of the local culture and natural history. Annie's previous professional

work includes many years in the horticulture and design industries. In addition to traditional landscape design, Annie is experienced with the ecological design of natural stormwater treatment systems and other "green infrastructure," wetland/stream restorations, native plant community restorations, sustainable landscapes for green building/development projects, and sustainable park planning.