ECOLOGY-BASED LANDSCAPE PRACTICE
AN INTENSIVE, MULTI-SESSION VIRTUAL COURSE

Join influential Landscape Designer Larry Weaner and native plant expert Ian Caton as they explore the integration of restoration ecology and fine garden design.

(Attendees will receive a 100+ page login-protected course manual)

New Directions in the American Landscape

Founded in 1990, NDAL produces educational programming dedicated to the study of ecology- and culture-based landscape practice.

In 2016, NDAL received the first Regional Impact Award from the Native Plant Trust (formerly the New England Wildflower Society).

“...You have made a great contribution to the field through your conferences.
– LESLIE SAUER
ANDROPOGON ASSOCIATES, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Questions? Email info@ndal.org

CEUs:
APLD
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NOFA

Health, safety, and welfare approved

Photo by Larry Weaner

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2022
Applicable to Eastern & Midwestern U.S.
SESSION 1*

FOUNDATIONS OF ECOLOGY-BASED DESIGN: SCIENCE INTO PRACTICE
Larry Weaner

*Recommended prerequisite for all Intensive Course attendees

Our opening presentation will examine the species traits, vegetative patterns, and ecological processes found in spontaneous plant communities. Each will be followed by an example of its direct incorporation into a landscape plan, planting protocol, or management procedure. The plant traits described will include habitat fidelity, growth pattern, spatial and temporal niche, and proliferation strategies. The patterns and processes explored will include disturbance, succession, competition, and relative ecological stability.

Thursday, November 17th, 2022 | 1 - 4:30 PM EST

SESSION 2

THE OPEN LANDSCAPE: MEADOWS, OLD FIELDS, & SHRUBLANDS
Larry Weaner

Wildflower meadows and native grasslands are in high demand, but effective protocols for successfully achieving them are in short supply. Here we will delve into the nitty gritty of meadow design: site analysis, species selection, seed mix formulation, live plant inclusion, planting and management. The inclusion of shrub thickets and drifts will also be covered, including the arrangement of clonal vs. clump forming species, and the use of shrublands as ecological and visual “connective tissue” between meadow and woods.

Friday, November 18th, 2022 | 1 - 4:30 PM EST
An ecology-based approach to woodland design is more like guiding a vegetative process than implementing a static planting plan. Guided succession can foster the orderly transformation from an open field to a multi-tiered forest through planting, managed natural recruitment, or a combination of the two. Under existing canopy, where few herbaceous species can be established through direct seeding, we will discuss the planting of small “seed source colonies,” and management strategies to encourage their proliferation into the larger landscape. Management techniques that are unique to woodlands including selective height cutting, sunlight manipulation, and assisted seed dispersal, will also be described in detail.

Thursday, December 1st, 2022 | 1 - 4:30 PM EST

Ecological design need not be a bitter aesthetic pill that our clients must swallow to do the right thing. The order inherent in our wild native landscapes is widely considered beautiful. By translating that ecology-based order into the aesthetically-based language of fine garden design, the results can be much more universally embraced by our clients. In addition, Larry will illustrate how highly gardenesque - and even formal - elements can gracefully interact and intermingle with wilder woodland, shrubland, and meadow compositions. This approach can result in landscapes that are both ecologically productive and visually pleasing to clients with a variety of aesthetic preferences.

Friday, December 2nd, 2022 | 1 - 4:30 PM EST

In this session, native plant authority Ian Caton will examine plants of the open landscape that exemplify the ecological characteristics described by Larry Weaner in previous sessions. His presentation will span the successional period from herbaceous meadow, to mixed woody/herbaceous old field, to the ecologically important but often neglected clonal shrub thicket. He will also present a group of “workhorse” native species for the sunlit landscape that combine reliability and weed suppression with attractive aesthetic character.

Thursday, December 15th, 2022 | 1 - 4:30 PM EST
PLANTS OF THE CANOPIED LANDSCAPE: 
WOODLANDS, EDGES, & HEDGEROWS
Ian Caton

In this session, native plant authority Ian Caton will examine plants of the canopied landscape that exemplify the ecological characteristics described by Larry Weaner in previous sessions. His presentation will include plants found at all of the woodland’s vertical layers, from canopy to understory. He will also discuss their specific abilities to integrate with the unique colonization strategies inherent in woodland development and enhancement. Finally, Ian will present a group of “workhorse” native species for the woodland, including those that combine reliability with desirable aesthetic characteristics.

Friday, December 16th, 2022 | 1 - 4:30 PM EST

INCLUDED FOR ALL REGISTRANTS:

OFFICE HOURS
Larry Weaner & Ian Caton

This “conversation-style” session will be entirely devoted to questions and comments from participants. The six month gap separating this and the previous session will allow participants to apply course content to actual projects, and return to ask questions and discuss their experiences with presenters and fellow participants.

Thursday, June 1st, 2023 | 1 - 3:00 PM EDT

Attendees will receive a 100+ page, login-protected course manual.
Ian Caton worked for Larry Weaner Landscape Associates from 2001 to 2013, and now serves as a project consultant for the firm. His knowledge of native plants and their characteristics is encyclopedic. He is also the founding principal of Wood Thrush Native Nursery in Floyd, VA. Ian has designed and installed landscapes for a wide range of residential, commercial, and public settings. Prior speaking engagements include the Irvine Native Plant Symposium and events at the New York Botanical Garden and Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve.

Larry Weaner, FAPLD, founded Larry Weaner Landscape Associates in 1982 and established NDAL in 1990. He is nationally recognized for combining expertise in horticulture, landscape design, and ecological restoration. His design and restoration work spans more than twenty U.S. states and the U.K., and has been profiled in numerous national publications. His book *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* (2016) received an American Horticultural Society (AHS) Book Award in 2017. In 2021 he received the AHS Landscape Design Award and the APLD Award of Distinction.

Totally fantastic! No other presentations come close to NDAL events in terms of quality and richness of information presented.

-Ben O., 2022 Intensive Course Attendee
Register for the Intensive Course Full Bundle (six 3-hour sessions and one 2-hour Office Hours*) OR individual sessions.

**Full Bundle: $575**
**Individual Sessions: $105 each**

*The 2-hour *Office Hours* will be available to all registrants.

Attendees will receive a 100+ page, login-protected course manual.

Live sessions will be recorded and viewable to registrants for 3 months.

**REGISTER NOW**