Native Plant Symposium
Talk Descriptions and Speaker Bios
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; November 10, 2018

Reading the Landscape, Dr. Stanley Hedeen, 9:00AM-9:50AM
Ice Age glaciers influenced today’s topography, soils, and forests in the Cincinnati region into four different ecoregions. This talk will review how ice-age glaciers determined the location of the ecoregions, and how human culture is modifying the structure and function of the ecoregions.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Dr. Stanley Hedeen received a B.A. in Biology at Augustana College and a Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of Minnesota. He taught ecology for over four decades at Xavier University, where he also variously served as Biology Department Chair, Communication Arts Department Chair, and Dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Hedeen has published papers on such topics as population ecology, animal behavior, and water pollution, as well as books about the Little Miami River, the Mill Creek, Big Bone Lick, and the natural history of the Cincinnati region. He has served as a member of the Ohio Biological Survey Steering Committee, the Vice President of the Cincinnati Nature Center, and the Chair of the Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission. Since his retirement, Stan spends most of his time as a collections assistant at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Native Plants and Animal Associations, Jim McCormac, 9:50AM-10:40AM
The importance of native plants to animals cannot be overstated. Native animal communities are tightly wedded to indigenous flora, and some of these linkages are intimate indeed. Seemingly disparate plant species become connected through pollinating insects, as is the case with some rare orchids whose specialized pollinators are spawned from entirely unreplated plants. The caterpillars of Ohio’s 2,500 butterfly and moth species would mostly be doomed if not for native plant conservation. Caterpillars in turn become a vital food source for birds. Ants literally do much of the heavy lifting of spring wildflower seed dispersal. Myriad critters, from owls to insects, have evolved incredible camouflage based on botany. While largescale conservation is key to protecting floral and faunal partnerships, even small backyard ecosystems can flourish if based on native flora. This talk will be a richly illustrated romp through some amazing relationships between plants and animals.

Jim McCormac worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for 31 years as a botanist, and later specializing in wildlife diversity projects, especially involving birds. He has authored or coauthored six books, including Birds of Ohio (Lone Pine 2004); and Wild Ohio: The Best of Our Natural Heritage (Kent State University Press 2009). The latter won the 2010 Ohioana Book award. He is a coauthor of the Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II book. Jim writes a column, Nature, for the Columbus Dispatch, and regularly publishes a natural history blog. He has written numerous articles in a variety of publications, and has delivered hundreds of presentations throughout the eastern United States. He was named 2015 Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Ohio League of Sportsmen. Jim is an avid photographer, shooting a range of natural history subjects. He has had hundreds of photos published in various forums.

Wandering the Wild Lands: Lessons from Wild Plant Communities, Kelly Norris, 11:10AM-12:00N
Kelly’s love for native plants is almost as primal as his urge to garden. Early life influences have translated into a feverish obsession for plant exploration and collection and Kelly’s unwavering commitment to introduce and promote the native plants that our industry continues to look past. Beyond the plants themselves, understanding their functional roles in wild environments can lead to profound insights in how to adapt them to gardens. Take up the explorer’s hat in this travelogue that fuses horticulture and ecology into ideas and practices you can plant at home.

Kelly D. Norris is an award-winning author and plantsman from Iowa and the director of horticulture and education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, a newly revitalized public garden in Des Moines, Iowa. Throughout his career, his work has been featured in The New York Times, Organic Gardening, Better Homes and Gardens, Martha Stewart
Living, Garden Design and in numerous local and regional media appearances. At the Botanical Garden, Kelly is responsible for leading and directing a team of horticulturists and educators in all aspects of design, curation, programming, and garden management, after serving as the principal horticulture consultant to the $18 million renovation project completed in 2014. He is the artistic director of the popular Spring Garden Festival, a four-day pop-up retail plant sale and garden show. From 2013-2017, he was the editorial director for the organization’s award-winning member magazine Bloom.

As a writer and photographer, he regularly contributes to popular gardening magazines like Country Gardens, Fine Gardening and The American Gardener and is a contributing editor to Greenhouse Grower, an industry trade magazine. He’s popularly known for his book A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts from Timber Press, which won the 2013 American Horticultural Society Book Award. His most recent book—Plants With Style—debuted in December 2015. As a speaker, he has garnered acclaim for his high-energy, zealous presentations on the national stage, leading many to call him one of the rising stars of American horticulture.

Kelly’s career began at age 15 when he talked his parents into buying a nursery (Rainbow Iris Farm), and since then he’s become one of the few gurus on marketing horticulture to emerging demographics. Kelly is the youngest person to receive the Iowa State Horticultural Society’s Presidential Citation, Award of Merit and Honor Award in the organization’s 150 year history, awards that exemplify service and contributions to horticulture in Iowa. In 2011, he was also honored by the Perennial Plant Association with the Young Professional Award, recognizing early contributions to the advancement of herbaceous perennials in American horticulture. In 2013, he won the Iowa Author Award for Special Interest Writing, the youngest Iowan to be recognized in the history of the awards program. His curatorial work at the Botanical Garden was recognized by the Chanticleer Foundation with a 2015 Chanticleer Scholar Award that will fund two years of fieldwork in support of the garden’s permanent living collections. Kelly holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in horticulture from Iowa State University.

Native Plants in the Suburbs, Anna Brooks, 1:00PM-1:50PM
In 2000, Anna Brooks joined Arcadia Gardens, LLC, a family owned company (3 generations and counting!) serving the southwest corner of Michigan, adding a maintenance and fine gardening service division, utilizing her degree in horticulture from Michigan State University and her background in grounds maintenance. Founded in 1990, the business has grown slowly over the years, providing custom designs, quality hardscape installation and thoughtful planting schemes. In 2008, she and her husband Todd took the reins and developed an award winning, full service landscape design/build firm that is quickly approaching 30 years of serving Michigan’s Great Southwest! Anna and the team at Arcadia approaches each and every project with the same level of professionalism and attention, regardless of the scope of work. Her designs and projects range from simple front entries to entire estates, utilizing a variety of materials: natural stone, paving products, timber, corten steel, native restoration and ornamental plantings. Their client base is 90% residential and 10% commercial.

Anna Brooks has served multiple roles within APLD (Association of Landscape Designers- National Chapter Chair, Michigan Chapter Past President) and has obtained multiple industry certification through Michigan’s Nursery & Landscape’s CGIP program (Certified Landscape Designer, Certified Landscape Contractor, and Certified Landscape Manager). She most recently achieved designation as a Proven Winner’s Certified Landscape Professional, joining a select group of landscape professionals across the country. Her personal garden, as well as two of her clients’ landscapes, will be featured in an upcoming book on inspirational, deer-resistant landscapes, written by award-winning author, Karen Chapman. It is due to be published in 2019 by Timber Press. She is an active volunteer in the community, enjoys camping and hiking with her family, and spends every free moment in her garden.

Planting on the Wild Side, Kelly Norris, 1:50PM-2:40PM
New naturalism is all the rage in modern horticulture and for good reason: gardens inspired by natural systems promote authentic connections between land, environment and humanity. In this era of purposeful and thoughtful gardening, planting is a powerful verb. Gardeners can celebrate the experience of bringing nature closer to home through expressions off wildness and intentional consideration of how plants grow over time. In this lecture brimming with examples from public and private spaces around the world, plantsman Kelly Norris strives to inspire audiences with practical and inspiring ideas for planting the world a more beautiful, functional place.
**Seeds, Trials and Endangered Species, Shelby French, 3:10PM-4:00PM**

Experience how Mt. Cuba Center propagates and grows wild collected, and rare and endangered species of the Eastern Temperate Forest. Shelby will present various successes with rare species, including seed banking and supporting conservation efforts locally. An overview of the Trial Gardens and several Research initiatives will be related. It is Mt. Cuba Center’s mission to empower people to become conservators of our natural habitats.

As the Propagation Manager at Mt. Cuba Center in Northern Delaware, **Shelby French** oversees wild collections, propagation and various research projects. She earned a degree in Entrepreneurship from Delaware Technical Community College in 2012, and is a 2002 graduate of the Longwood Gardens Professional Gardener Program. Previously, Shelby worked for commercial greenhouses and in the tree care industry. Over her 13 year career at Mt. Cuba Shelby has appreciated the many challenges and successes of propagating native plants. Mt. Cuba Center is the former estate of Mr. and Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland, whose mission is to inspire an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to support the habitats that sustain them.

**Update on the Zoo’s Native Plant Program, Brian Jorg, 4:00PM-4:30PM**

Brian will lead you through a whirlwind update on the native plants which have us excited, both at the Zoo and with our restoration work at EcOhio Farm.

**Brian Jorg** is Manager of Horticulture at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, joined the organization in 2004. Prior to joining the Zoo, Brian was a horticulturist at Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, a national historic landmark, for 15 years. Brian’s responsibilities include managing the Native Plant Program. This program includes the conservation, education, and promotion of native flora. Active in professional organizations in the greater Cincinnati community, Brian is the past president of the Cincinnati Rose Society, and is a member of the Garden Writers Association. Brian is also on the board of directors for the Cincinnati Audubon Society. Whether he is trekking the glaciers of Alaska or the plains of East Africa, he is constantly learning, observing and documenting nature.