

More than Paradise: Exploring the arrival and purpose of the modern garden

Friday, June 14 – Sunday, June 16, 2019

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PROGRAM FACULTY:

- Richard Bisgrove, author, horticulturist, and professor, University of Reading (ret.) and Oxford University
- Maegan Lockett, horticulturist, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants, Duke Gardens
- Alec Motten Ph.D.'82, Associate Professor of the Practice Emeritus of Biology, Duke University
- Bobby Mottern, director of horticulture, Duke Gardens
- Annabel Renwick, curator, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants, Duke Gardens

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

2:30 pm **Registration**

Duke Gardens: Doris Duke Center

3:00 pm **Welcome and Introduction and Afternoon Tea**

Jenn Chambers and Kate Senner

Duke Gardens: Doris Duke Center

3:45 pm **Opening Lecture: The Modern Garden**

Richard Bisgrove

Duke Gardens: Doris Duke Center

Richard opens our discussion by exploring the development of the 'modern' garden. Influences from architecture, including the 'Modern Movement' and its promotion of 'Form Follows Function' and 'Less is More' maxims presented challenges for the more decorative and luxuriant garden. Richard will trace the development of modern gardens, linking stylized gardens, naturalistic planting styles and prairie garden restorations. This sets the tone for our weekend with further exploration of prairie plantings, plant structure and function, and how gardens reflect and address the current concerns of our communities.

- 5:00 p.m. **A Classic Southern Picnic**
Duke Gardens: The Discovery Garden
Surrounded by the lush garden scenery, we'll gather for a relaxed picnic dinner around the tables in the Discovery Garden and enjoy traditional southern fare featuring sweet and savory dishes.
- 7:00 pm **Lecture: Why is A Garden?**
Richard Bisgrove
Duke Gardens: Doris Duke Center
We all know what a garden is – don't we? But in the US you can have a garden in your yard, while in England, you could have a yard in your garden. Richard will look at the origins of our concept of the garden, at the evolution of the word and at the relationship between the Garden of Eden, Paradise, and our more mundane gardens and yards before considering what purposes the garden serves in the 21st century.
****NOTE**** *Weekend participants will have priority seating at this public lecture followed by the champagne reception on the terrace.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

- 9:00 am **Lecture: The Piedmont Prairie**
Annabel Renwick
Duke Gardens: Doris Duke Center
The Piedmont Prairie, located in the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants at Duke Gardens, re-establishes an ecology that was once common in North Carolina. Annabel joins us to outline the goals and methods used to create this evocative landscape.
- 10:00 am **Field Trip: Plant Structure and Function (Group A)**
Alec Motten
The interaction between a plant and its environmental setting is fascinating. Join Alec for a walking tour of the Blomquist Garden considering plant architecture and how a plant responds to its place.
- Field Trip: Garden Structure and Function (Group B)**
Bobby Mottern
The strategies used in garden design balance the needs of plants and the preferences of people. Bobby will link the two in this walk through Duke Gardens revealing the design choices that shape your perception and experience of a garden.
- 11:15 am Break and transition

- 11:30 am **Field Trip: Plant Structure and Function (Group B)**
Alec Motten
- Field Trip: Garden Structure and Function (Group A)**
Bobby Mottern
- 12:45 pm **Break for lunch – Brodhead Center, West Campus**
- 2:15 pm **Lecture: Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement**
Richard Bisgrove
Duke Gardens: Kirby Horton Hall
The Arts and Crafts Movement, a reaction against the evils of the Industrial Revolution, emerged in England in response to the writings and practice of John Ruskin and William Morris but it found enthusiastic support from American artists, craftsmen and their patrons. Richard will look briefly at the background to the Arts and Crafts Movement before examining the work of key contributors to the Arts and Crafts garden, especially William Robinson, Gertrude Jekyll and Alfred Parson. He will also attempt to answer that thorny question, ‘Is the English cottage garden an American invention?’
- 3:30 pm **Field Trip: The Piedmont Prairie, Blomquist Garden of Native Plants**
Annabel Renwick and Bobby Mottern
Duke Gardens: Piedmont Prairie
The group splits into two, both touring the Piedmont Prairie garden to learn about prairie ecology, the role of humans in creating and maintaining prairies, and the research that this garden is supporting.
- 5:00 pm **Evening on your own to explore Durham**

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

- 9:00 am **Panel Discussion: Horticulture and Ecology**
Richard Bisgrove and Annabel Renwick
Duke Gardens: Doris Duke Center
Today, gardens and ecology are less likely to be considered as separate and independent pursuits. Richard and Annabel will discuss a range of projects and trends that serve both decorative and environmental goals.
- 10:00 am **Activity: Curating a Naturalistic Garden & Transplanting Seedlings (Group A)**
Annabel Renwick
Work with Annabel to learn more about tracking seed source and curating this landscape. Then work with the group to transplant seedlings for use in the Piedmont Prairie.

Activity: Planting in the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants (Group B)

Maegan Lockett

Work with Maegan to help plant a portion of the newly designed entrance to the Blomquist Garden. Gloves and tools provided.

10:45 am **Break and transition**

11:00 am **Activity: Curating a Naturalistic Garden & Transplanting Seedlings (Group B)**

Annabel Renwick

Activity: Planting in the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants (Group A)

Maegan Lockett

11:45 pm **Discussion and Wrap-Up**