Learn at the Arnold Arboretum

Featured Programs

SEPTMBER

Role of Clouds and Particles in Climate… with a Dash of Fog
Monday, September 17, 6:30–8:00pm [HB]
Daniel Cziczo, PhD, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, MIT

Particles in our atmosphere, whether from the natural environment or from human-built engines, affect climate in ways we don’t yet fully understand. MIT Professor Dan Cziczo will speak of particles and clouds in our atmosphere and how climate is influenced by them. The evening will begin outdoors at Fog x Hill, Fujiko Nakaya’s fog exhibit (read more on page 5) at the Arboretum and then shift indoors for a lecture about clouds and climate. Arrive promptly at 6:30pm to view Fog x Hill, a timed-release landscape experience.

Fee Free, but registration requested

COG Design Showcase and "Charlesgate"
Thursday, September 20, 6:00–8:00pm [HB]

The Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design (COGdesign) showcases final designs for eight 2017-18 projects. Projects range from community gardens in Chelsea and Mission Hill to parks, plazas and stormwater management plans for transitional housing, after school programs and community groups in five additional Boston neighborhoods, and in Framingham. Following the showcase, Landing Studio will present their design solution for Charlesgate, a complex project to restore ecological infrastructure performance, urban connections, and public access to the terminus of the Olmsted-designed Emerald Necklace.

Fee Free, but registration requested

Cosponsored by the Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design and the Arnold Arboretum

Handson Classes & Workshops

Chainsaw Use and Safety
Saturday, September 22 (rain date Sunday, September 23), 9:00am–3:00pm [HB-Garage]

Small Trees for Small Spaces
Sunday, October 21, 10:00am–12:30pm [HB]

Growing Woody Plants from Seeds
Saturday, October 27, 9:00am–12:30pm [DG]

Growing Woody Plants from Hardwood Cuttings
Saturday, December 1, 9:00am–12:30pm [DG]

Introductory Tree and Shrub Pruning
Saturday, December 8, 9:30am–Noon [HB]

Winter Tree Identification
Saturday, February 9, 1:00–4:00pm [HB]

Getting Rooted in Urban Gardening
Sunday, March 3, 2:00–4:00pm [HB]

Pruning Project: Hydrangeas
Saturday, March 23, 10:00am–noon [HB]

Full details at my.arboretum.harvard.edu

ABBREVIATIONS KEY

[HB] Hunnewell Building, 125 Arborway, Boston
[DG] Dana Greenhouses, 1050 Centre, Boston
[HUH] Harvard University Herbaria, 22 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge
[WH] Weld Hill Building, 1300 Centre, Boston

CONTACT
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Introduction to Botany

8 Tuesdays: September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, (no class on October 30), November 6, and 13, 6:30–8:30pm [HUH]
K. N. Gandhi, Botanist, Harvard University Herbaria

Learn botany from Kanchi Gandhi, a dedicated instructor and plant nomenclature specialist at Harvard University. Among the topics to be explored: plant cells and tissues, anatomy and morphology, reproduction, nutrition, growth and development, plant diversity, evolution, classification, and nomenclature. This course offers both lecture and laboratory activities to new students or serves as a refresher course. Required text: Botany for Gardeners by Brian Capon.
Fee $240 member, $290 nonmember
Credit MCLP: 1ceu; MCA: 1ceu

How Birds Migrate

Wednesday, October 3, 7:00–8:00pm [HB]
Lorna Gibson, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT

Bird migration is one of the most remarkable phenomena in nature. Lorna Gibson will describe the why, when, and where of migration, how fast and far birds travel and how they find their way. She'll also address tracking by ornithologists.
Fee Free, but registration requested

Fifty Shades of Green:
Tales from the Hothouse

Friday, October 12, 7:30–8:30pm [HB]
Terry Huang, MSc, Living Collections Fellow, Arnold Arboretum

Back by popular demand with more content! Terry Huang’s bawdy botanical review delves into the sex lives of plants, dramatically explaining the challenges of courtship and consummation for those rooted in place. Alluring suitors with a pungent rotten odor, promising nectar for the exchange of goods, or going at it alone, plants have evolved interesting strategies to ensure their continued existence. From mutualistic partnerships to deceit-filled ones that would rival the most twisted romance, his vivid pollination stories reveal the ingenious ways flowers deal with one of life’s (most) important needs: sex. (Adult content: Rated PG)
Fee $5 member, $10 nonmember

Design with Plants

4 Thursdays: November 1, 8, 15, 29, 6:30–8:30pm [HB]; and 1 Saturday, November 3, 9:30–11:30am [Garden Visit]
Christie Dustman, Certified Landscape Designer, APLD

Does your garden hang together? Come and learn to think about plants in terms of their form and function first, and then learn some strategies to more successfully lay out your planting plan. The class will consist of classroom exercises, lectures, and a visit to a nearby gardens on a Saturday. It is helpful if you have a drawn plan of a garden area you are working on.
Fee $140 member, $182 nonmember

Introduction to Birds and Birding

Saturday, October 13, 1:00–3:00pm [HB]
Brendan Keegan, Gardeners, Arnold Arboretum

The Arboretum provides a home for over 100 bird species. This workshop offers tips for identifying some of the most common species, while also touching on topics such as basic bird anatomy, seasonal migration and common migrants, and binocular selection. Following the in-class segment, we'll take a walk through the landscape and put our skills to use.
Fee $25 member, $32 nonmember

What’s Going on in this Graph?

Monday, October 22, 7:00–8:30pm [HB]
Sharon Hessney, Writer and Moderator of New York Times Learning Network “What’s Going On In This Graph?”

Graphs can help convey information that might otherwise take several paragraphs to explain. But it is easy to misread or not fully understand the content and context. In this participatory program, we will decipher several graphs based on data from Arnold Arboretum curators and scientists. We will also look at the data and decide whether the data are well-represented and convey the story intended. If reading graphs is intriguing but challenging for you, gain more practice and insights.
Fee Free member and student, $10 nonmember

NOVEMBER

Design with Plants

4 Thursdays: November 1, 8, 15, 29, 6:30–8:30pm [HB]; and 1 Saturday, November 3, 9:30–11:30am [Garden Visit]
Christie Dustman, Certified Landscape Designer, APLD

Does your garden hang together? Come and learn to think about plants in terms of their form and function first, and then learn some strategies to more successfully lay out your planting plan. The class will consist of classroom exercises, lectures, and a visit to a nearby gardens on a Saturday. It is helpful if you have a drawn plan of a garden area you are working on.
Fee $140 member, $182 nonmember
What Nature Sounds Are Music?
Saturday, November 17, 2:00–3:30pm [HB]
David Rothenberg, Professor of Philosophy and Music, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Bird song, whale song, bug song? Are these music? What of the whistle of the wind? David Rothenberg, author of three books, *Why Birds Sing*, *Bug Music*, and *Survival of the Beautiful*, will do his best to answer these questions and fuel further thinking about noise, communication, and song in nature. A composer and jazz clarinetist, he has written and performed on the relationship between humanity and nature for years, and improvised with whales, cicadas, and other creatures.

Fee Free member and student, $10 nonmember

Introduction to Bonsai
Saturday, November 3, 1:30–4:30pm
Glen Lord, Horticulturist and Bonsai Specialist

In this class, Glen Lord will speak first about the history of bonsai and demonstrate the methods employed in creating and caring for dwarfed trees. Participants will plant a tropical specimen and learn about basic pruning, styling, and aftercare. The methods learned in this class can then be applied to other plants, such as temperate trees. The class fee includes a tropical plant, tools, soil, and a pot.

Fee $65 member, $80 nonmember

The Ethics of Species Conservation
Tuesday, December 4, 7:00–8:15pm [HB]
Ronald Sandler, PhD, Chair and Professor of Philosophy; Director, Ethics Institute, Northeastern University

Rapid ecological change challenges traditional conservation paradigms and strategies. It has also led some conservationists to endorse novel techniques such as assisted colonization, gene drives, and even de-extinction. This talk will explore the values and philosophies that underlie species conservation under conditions of rapid change, asking us to consider what is valuable about species and why we ought to conserve them.

Fee Free member, $10 nonmember

Landscape for Life
4 Wednesdays: January 9, 16, 23, 30, 12:00–3:00pm [HB]
Mark Richardson, Botanic Garden Director, NE Wild Flower Society

This intensive introductory course will provide you with the knowledge, skills, and understanding to create a great-looking garden that is healthier for your family and the environment. This class is based on the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative, the nation’s first rating system for sustainable landscapes. The comprehensive curriculum covers a range of topics, including soils, water, plants, and landscape materials.

Fee $185 member, $218 nonmember

Garden Design Workshop for Home Gardeners
5 Wednesdays: February 6, 13, (skip 20), 27, Mar 6, 13, 6:30–8:30pm [WH]
Christie Dustman, Certified Landscape Designer, APLD

Grappling with how to start designing your home garden space? Design a layout plan for an area of your yard in this beginner-
level class. Learn the organizational components of a coherent garden and practice the process of design with award-winning designer Christie Dustman. You will leave class with a plan in progress from which to continue your design explorations. This class is primarily about garden spaces rather than specific plant selection. You will be required to draw a base plan for your site (with tutelage in class) and will need to purchase some drawing tools and pay for copying. Limited to 16 students.

Fee: $145 member, $188 nonmember

Do Your Garden Plants Have a Backstory?

Thursday, February 28, 6:30–7:45pm [HB]

Michael Dosmann, Keeper of the Living Collections, Arnold Arboretum

Museums assign value to their collections by understanding each piece's backstory—for instance, where did it come from, who created/collected it, what does it represent, what feeling does it elicit? The plants in our own gardens can and should do the same, but too often have become generic and mundane because their backstories are forgotten. Perhaps even worse, we may be losing our own personal connections to what we grow. Michael Dosmann will provide his own perspective on how to re-engage with our garden plants in ways that make it personal.

Fee Free member, $10 nonmember

MARCH

Native Bees in the Hood

Tuesday, March 5, 6:30–8:30pm [HB]

Nick Dorian, PhD student, Tufts University

In this workshop, you will learn about the biology and diversity of native bees and why they are important pollinators. Nick Dorian will dive into the city lifestyles of bees and the strategies they employ to be successful in these anthropogenic landscapes. In the second part of the workshop, he’ll focus on native bee decline and conservation and answer common questions. Nick will teach the fundamentals of gardening for bees, and at the end of the workshop, provide the opportunity for participants to build their own mason and leafcutter bee hotel.

Fee $15

Cosponsored by Agricultural Hall and the Arnold Arboretum

Cultivating Legacies: New England Women in Horticulture and Landscape Design

Saturday, March 9, 9:30am–1:00pm [HB]

The impact women in the 20th century made on botany and landscape design is often overlooked. The Arnold Arboretum was one of the few institutions in America that encouraged women to study with and be mentored by established botanical and landscape design professionals. Mary (Polly) Wakefield, Eleanor Cabot Bradley, Martha Brooks Hutcheson, Marian Roby Case, and Marjorie Russell Sedgwick developed exceptional personal garden spaces and designed outstanding professional landscapes, and were also very active in the conservation and preservation of New England open space. This seminar illuminates these women’s roles in creating and protecting New England landscapes, how the Arboretum contributed to these endeavors, and how we can continue to raise the visibility of these special places. Program includes an associated exhibition in the Arnold Arboretum’s historic Library Reading Room.

Fee $50

Co-sponsored by The Trustees of Reservations, the Mary M.B. Wakefield Charitable Trust, and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

The American Chestnut: When Will It Flourish Again?

Saturday, March 30, event time to be announced

Experts share perspectives on the history of American chestnut (Castanea dentata): its significance as a forest species and subsequent decimation by an introduced blight; ongoing research in blight resistance and gene manipulation, and the prognosis for this tree’s future.

Scheduled speakers are William A. Powell, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY; Edward K. Faison, Highstead Arboretum; Lisa Thomson, Sara Fitzsimmons, and Jared Westbrook, The American Chestnut Foundation; Michael S. Dosmann, Arnold Arboretum; and David R. Foster, Harvard Forest.

Details forthcoming online