

Learn at the Arnold Arboretum

Featured Programs



Hands-on Classes & Workshops

Compost Compendium

Saturday, November 2, 9:00–11:00am [WH]

Propagating Plants from Semi-hardwood Cuttings

Wednesday, November 13, 5:00–7:00pm [DG]

Jump-start Spring: Forcing Bulbs

Wednesday, January 15, 5:00–7:00pm [DG]

Winter Tree Identification

Saturday, January 25, 9:30am–12:30pm [HB]

Grafting Woody Plants: Fruit Trees

Wednesday, February 26, 5:00–7:30pm [DG]

Holiday Houseplant Hangover

Thursday, March 12, 6:30am–8:00pm [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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SEPTEMBER

Introduction to Botany

8 Tuesday session: September 24, October 1, 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19; 6:30–8:30pm [HUH]

K. N. Gandhi, Botanist, Harvard University Herbaria

This course, offering both lecture and laboratory activities, introduces botany to new students or serves as a refresher course. Among the topics to be explored: plant cells and tissues, anatomy and morphology, reproduction, nutrition, growth and development, plant diversity, evolution, classification, and nomenclature.

Fee \$240 member, \$290 nonmember

A Global Ecology Journey: Prioritizing Earth-Centered Ethics

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30–8:00pm [HB]

Douglas Zook, PhD, Global Ecologist, Science Educator, and Director of the Global Ecology Initiative at UMass/Boston School for the Environment, and current Fulbright Scholar

The discipline of global ecology leads us to realize that a sustainable, viable home for us and all other species can only be restored by living a new ethic that keeps biosphere health foremost in our minds, hearts, and actions. Professor Zook will introduce us to some of the courageous, science-based, grassroots peoples around the world who practice and even prioritize an earth-centered ethic. Learn from these inspiring examples and begin to create your own earth-ethics.

Fee Free, but registration requested

Creative Climate Commitment with Susan Israel

Saturday, September 28, 9:30am–12:30pm [HB]

Susan Israel, AIA, LEED AP, President and Founder, Climate Creatives

What is preventing you from doing more about the climate crisis? Maybe fear, and lack of belief that your

actions matter? In this workshop, participants will work in groups to creatively respond to climate change with discussion and prompting from Susan Isreal, an architect, artist, climate communicator, and social entrepreneur who founded Climate Creatives. These efforts will result in a collaborative commitment to change, a talisman of sorts, represented in three dimensions.

Fee members \$30, nonmembers \$40, students \$20

Dia-Logs: Encouraging Climate Conversations

September 21-30, Dawn to dusk [HB Lawn]

Have a seat on one of our Dia-logs and strike up a climate conversation. We'll provide discussion prompts and facts. You take it from there to share your thoughts and hear others. Are you hopeful or fearful? Paralyzed by negative news or motivated to change how you live? Our Dia-logs offer an opportunity to connect within our human community in response to our rapidly changing climate. We'll have Dia-logs for adults and for children, with age-appropriate conversation starters.

OCTOBER

Seed Collection: Processing the Bounty

Wednesday, October 2, 2:00–3:00pm [DG]



Arboretum staff Andrew Gapinski, Sean Halloran, and Jared Rubinstein will travel for three weeks this September in Appalachia in search of taxa targeted for The Campaign for the Living Collections. As the explorers return to the Arboretum with the fruits

of their labor, the real work begins—from preparing seeds for their unique propagation treatments to assessing field notes, and mounting herbarium sheets. Join our Expedition Team at the Dana Greenhouses for a closer look at the collections made along their journey and an explanation of the processes currently underway.

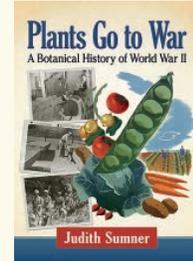
Fee Free member, \$5 nonmember

Plants Go to War: A Botanical History of World War II

Thursday, October 10, 6:30–8:00pm [HB]

Judith Sumner, PhD, Author and Botanist

As the first botanical history of World War II, *Plants Go to War* examines military history from the perspective of plant science. From victory gardens to drugs, timber, rubber, and fibers, plants supplied materials with key roles in victory. Author and botanist Judith Sumner will speak of the many plants that were incorporated into wartime safety materials, diet and rations, and even bombers.



Fee Free, Registration requested

Smartphone Photography: Capturing the Colors of Autumn

3 Wednesdays, October 16, 23, 30, 1:30–3:30pm [HB]

Nancy Katz, Professional Photographer

Capture the drama of fall, when landscapes present a vivid array of colors and the palette is most striking. Professional photographer Nancy Katz will introduce fundamental concepts of landscape photography and then teach techniques for getting the best photographs from your smartphone camera. You will capture images in dynamic color and muted shades, then learn to enhance them using a host of editing tools provided in the Snapseed App. Class will take place indoors and out.

Fee member \$65, nonmember \$78

Native Woody Plant Materials

**2 Mondays, October 21 & 28, 10:00am–3:00pm
[Garden in the Woods/Arnold Arboretum]**

Dan Jaffe, Horticulturist and Propagator at Norcross Wildlife Foundation

Explore the vast variety of native trees, shrubs, and woody vines. Learn which species grow well in shade, which support local wildlife, and how to stagger plantings for continual bloom, fruit production, and fall color. The class discusses growth characteristics, cultural requirements, and best horticultural uses. It includes lectures and walks in the Garden in the Woods as well as a field trip to the Arnold Arboretum. Bring a bag lunch.

Fee \$180 member; \$220 nonmember

Offered in collaboration with The Native Plant Trust

NOVEMBER

Photography with Chris Morgan

Saturday, November 2, 1:00–4:00pm [HB]

Christopher Morgan, Photographer

Chris Morgan captured the many patterns and textures in nature—from the shapes of trees to the movements of birds—in photographs displayed at the Arnold Arboretum last winter. In this program, Chris will discuss his photographic interests and methods in the classroom and then move outdoors to demonstrate his techniques. Class participants will learn alongside Chris, debating camera angles and considering focal points in order to shoot better images.



Fee \$30 member, \$36 nonmember

How Birds Work: Beaks and Bills

Wednesday, November 6, 7:00–8:00pm [HB]

Lorna Gibson, Matoula S. Salapatas Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Professor of Mechanical Engineer, and MacVicar Fellow, MIT

Bills are the “Swiss Army” knives of the bird world, used for everything from feeding to building nests to preening and even courtship displays. Learn how the size and shape of a bird’s bill enables it to capture and eat different types of food.

Fee Free, registration required

DECEMBER

Measure Twice, Cut Once: Introductory Tree and Shrub Pruning

Saturday, December 14, 9:30am–noon [HB]

Andrew Gapinski, Head of Horticulture, Arnold Arboretum

Put down the hedge shears! Through both classroom instruction and field training, this class will include what’s, whys, and how’s of proper pruning approaches and techniques. Andrew Gapinski will focus on small ornamental trees, young shade trees, and shrubs with general approaches towards maintaining a plant’s natural form and encouraging health and vigor.

Fee \$30 member, \$38 nonmember

JANUARY

Landscape for Life

4 Thursdays, January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 12:00–3:00pm [HB]

Trevor Smith, LEED Green Associate, Land Escapes

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

Fee \$216 member; \$264 nonmember

Offered in collaboration with The Native Plant Trust

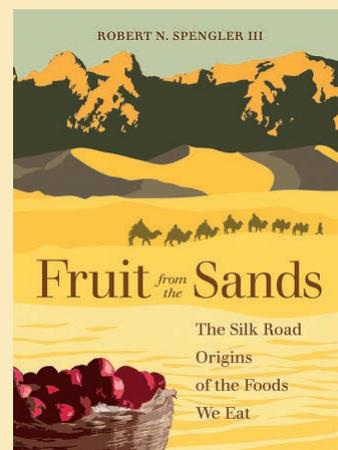
Fruit from the Sands: The Silk Road Origins of the Foods We Eat

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00–8:30pm [HB]

Robert Spengler III, Director of the Paleoethnobotany Laboratories, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany

From almonds and apples to tea and rice, many foods that we consume today have histories that can be traced out of prehistoric Central Asia along the tracks of the Silk Road. Robert Spengler presents a broad array of archaeological, botanical, and historical evidence, narrating the story of the origins and spread of agriculture across Inner Asia and into Europe and East Asia. Through the preserved remains of plants found in archaeological sites, he identifies the regions where our most familiar crops were domesticated and follows their routes as people carried them around the world, shaping the course of human history.

Fee Free member and student, \$5 nonmember



FEBRUARY

A Rose is a Rose: The Art of Botanical Prose

Thursday, February 6, 2:00–3:30pm [HB]

Jonathan Damery, Associate Editor of *Arnoldia*

Attention gardeners, readers, and writers! Come in from the cold for an afternoon as delightful as a spring garden. Jonathan Damery, the associate editor for *Arnoldia*, will provide an enlivening and breathtaking tour of the artistry found in horticultural and botanical reference books. Bask in the profound eloquence of even the most exhaustive of botanical descriptions. Often cloaked in scholarly tomes, these compositions boast opinion, passion, gorgeous wordsmithing, and even intrigue in some cases.

Fee \$5 member, \$10 nonmemberer

MARCH

Director's Lecture Series 2020

Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress

Monday, March 9, 7:00–8:30pm [HB]

Steven Pinker, Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology,
Harvard University



Is the world really falling apart? Is the ideal of progress obsolete? Assessing the present human condition, cognitive scientist Steven Pinker urges us to step back from the gory headlines and prophecies of doom, which play to our psychological biases. Instead, Pinker suggests that we follow the data with which he shows that life, health,

prosperity, safety, peace, knowledge, and happiness are on the rise, not just in the West, but worldwide. This progress is not the result of some cosmic force. It is a gift of the Enlightenment: the conviction that reason and science can enhance human flourishing.

Members-only event; Free, but registration required;
see additional Director's Lecture Series events online

Cultivating Space: Women in Horticulture and Place-making Design

Saturday, March 7, 9:30am–12:30pm [HB]

In this year's "cultivating women" symposium, we highlight contemporary efforts by women to create, share, and preserve greenspaces for all and will showcase the importance of community spaces in this era of increasing urban and suburban density.

Speakers for this forum

Jennifer Jewell, author and creator/host of public radio's *Cultivating Place*; *Patricia Spence*, President and CEO of *The Urban Farming Institute at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm, Mattapan*; *Kristin McCullin*, Horticulturist for *the Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens*; and *Kaki Martin*, ASLA, PLA and Principal of *Klopfert Martin Design Group*

Fee \$50

Co-sponsored by Arnold Arboretum and the
Mary M.B. Wakefield Charitable Trust

APRIL

Greenovation: Urban Leadership on Climate Change

Thursday, April 9, 6:30–8:00pm [HB]

Joan Fitzgerald, PhD, Professor of Urban and Public
Policy, Northeastern University

Joan Fitzgerald, eminent urban policy scholar, argues that too many cities are implementing random acts of greenness that will do little to address the climate crisis. She instead calls for "greenovation"—using the city as a test bed for adopting and perfecting green technologies for more energy-efficient buildings, transportation, and infrastructure more broadly. Drawing on interviews with practitioners in more than 20 North American and European cities, she identifies the strategies and policies they are employing and shows how regional and national governments have supported or thwarted their efforts. Joan will specifically address Boston's challenges and opportunities and help us understand the increasing impact of anthropocentric climate change on modern social life.

Fee Free members, \$5 nonmember