

Larry Weaner is a leading American landscape ecology designer known for his natural meadows. Like Piet Oudolf's designs, Weaner uses native plants in new and creative ways. He is collaborating with Wild Ones and Doug Tallamy, whom most of you are familiar with, in a New Directions American Landscape (NDAL) summer series from July to August, Ecology, Culture, and the Designed Landscape Professional Practice Across Disciplines and Scales. Online programs will be live, interactive, and national for professional practitioners including landscape architects and designers, restoration ecologists, and horticulturists.

This may be a big help if the Club's Conservation Committee goes ahead with a natural meadow at Job Lane. We have several native plants, which could be donated. They would qualify the meadow for entry into the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. Native Plant Challenge. Native plants are still available for purchase and pickup at the Garden in the Woods, Native Plant Trust.

Conservation Thoughts

The topic of 'conservation' may seem overwhelming these days as we find native plants and trees often taking center stage. Years ago, scientists began to report that climate change was becoming a threat in part due to the reduction of forests globally. Linked to the use of fossil fuels through industrialization, worldwide, and population growth, this was causing an increase in atmospheric Co2 and rising oceans. The need to provide food for increasing numbers of people led to the development of GMO, 'Roundup-ready' crops which in turn paralleled a decline in pollinators. Especially noticeable was the threat of near extinction of the Monarch butterfly and the decline of pollinator bees. Botanists, horticulturists, etymologists and scientists began a concerted effort to educate the public with grave warnings about our plant's hot future.

Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware, spoke eloquently, with photo presentations of threatened insects and the consequences for the food web. With the support of Wild Ones and national institutions, inspired by early conservationists like Aldo Leopold and John Muir, native plant enthusiasts began to study local genomes. Landscape designers like U.S.'s Larry Weaner and the Netherland's Piet Oudolf created urban and suburban perennial herbal and grass garden landscapes using native plants to replace ubiquitous lawns. Planting the Natural Garden and Garden Revolution became best sellers along with Bringing Nature Home and The Living Landscape. Now, with the greater need for outdoor activity, we find that gardening boosts one's mood and reduces anxiety and depression. The natural environment has become a friend in need! We are fundamentally connected through the food web, wildlife, clean air and

water, and a safe planet. As gardeners, we can look forward to Summer of 2020 as one to enjoy digging in the earth, watching our plants grow and flower, while identifying butterflies, hearing birds singing, and learning more about our deep connection and love for the earth.

On behalf of the Bedford Garden Club, Melinda Chamberlain Dietrich has entered the Job Lane Farm Museum Native Plant Garden into the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' Go Native Challenge. Melinda designed the garden, donated plants, and with the help of her son, Charlie Vinton, planted the garden this past spring. Ellen Kift and her husband helped water it this summer.