



## **Native Plant Communities: Designing with Color, Ecology, and Management**

Join the **Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD)** and **Mt. Cuba Center** for an energizing and informative summer day in the garden. Local and internationally renowned experts will share their experience and vision of garden design, sustainable meadow development, and the importance of native perennials in our landscapes.

9:00-9:30     *Welcome*

9:30-10:45     Claudia West: **The Landscape's Color Spectrum: Applying Natural Color Theory to Enhance Design**

Our definition of beauty and harmony is deeply rooted in the natural world and the landscapes we evolved in. This photographic presentation of regional native plant communities interprets Bertolt Hering's research of natural color ranges in modern European landscapes and applies those principles to American garden design. Discover how the Swedish Natural Color System provides a tool for analyzing the myriad color layers of plant communities and how to incorporate this system into your design practice. Integrating the principals of color and texture when designing projects that include native plants results in more harmonious, balanced, and ecologically rich landscapes.

10:45-11:00     *Break*

11:00-12:00     Travis Beck: **The Evolution of Mt. Cuba Center's Landscape**

From forest to farmland to estate to native plant garden, the landscape of Mt. Cuba Center has evolved over time, as have the philosophies by which it has been managed. Learn about these transitions and the influence of noted designers on the property. Get a sneak peek at Mt. Cuba's new master plan by Nelson Byrd Woltz and insight into the changes to come.

12:00- 1:00:     *Lunch & Exploring the Garden*

1:00-1:45     Mark Gormel: **Along the Way Toward Meadow Communities**

Interested in achieving aesthetically rich and ecologically productive meadows? Whether you are planning a large or small project, this talk provides an illustrated overview of the many required components that make up a healthy, thriving meadow community. Topics include site selection and preparation, seed mixes, sowing strategies, and management of newly installed and existing meadow communities.

1:45-2:30     George Coombs: **Knockout Natives for Every Landscape**

Join George Coombs, Mt. Cuba Center's Trial Garden Manager, as he details some of the key lessons learned from their trials on *Coreopsis*, *Baptisia*, *Monarda*, and *Phlox*. George will highlight some of the best native plants for our region, including several species and cultivars you've probably never heard of. In addition to discussing horticultural performance, he will also share information on which selections are best for attracting a broad range of pollinators.

2:30-2:45      *Break*

2:45-3:30      **In the Garden Classroom**

Join George Coombs in the Trial Garden to gain insights into current research programs at Mt. Cuba Center that assess species and cultivars of hydrangeas, sedges, and *Echinacea*. Or, join Mark Gormel in the meadow garden as he identifies key species and describes some of the practical maintenance techniques associated with managing meadows.

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