

# Programs in Pioneer Valley

NEW ENGLAND  
**WILD  
FLOWER  
SOCIETY**



**NASAMI FARM**

Please preregister (unless otherwise noted) at registrar@newenglandWILD.org or 508-877-7630, ext. 3303.

## MOUNT ALANDER

At 2,250 feet, Mt. Alander is one of the highest peaks in the southern Taconic Mountains and lies atop the three-state junction of Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts. Our seven-mile loop hike will begin at Mt. Washington State Forest headquarters. On our way to the summit, which is the highest point of Columbia County, New York, we will pass through northern hardwood forest, oak forest, and hemlock ravines to a large open bald with scrub oak, low bush blueberry, huckleberry, and a variety of other low shrubs. En route, we will look at a variety of asters, golden-rods, and other late-blooming plants. The peak has spectacular views of the Berkshires, Taconics, Hudson Valley, and Catskills, as well as migrating birds. The hike is fairly strenuous and rocky in sections. Bring a bag lunch, water, and suitable footwear.

**Sunday, September 16, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Mt. Washington, MA

**Course Code:** FDT2044

**Leader:** Ted Elliman

**Fee:** \$35M/\$40NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Field—all certificates

## FERNS OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY

This class will focus on the rich and diverse fern species of the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts. The evening class will present an overview of our local ferns—identification, ecology, and life history—with an illustrated talk and specimens to examine. On Saturday we will visit several sites in Hampshire and Franklin Counties to view species in a variety of habitats. The instructor will share tips and tricks for field identification of the species in our area. Our goal will be to become familiar with 30 species. Bring a hand lens both days, and a bag lunch on Saturday, and be prepared for walking on uneven, wet terrain and slippery rocks. Cosponsored with Hitchcock Center for the Environment.

**Thursday, September 27, 7–9 p.m., and  
Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
Amherst, MA

**Course Code:** BOT3430

**Instructor:** Ted Watt

**Fee:** \$90M/\$108NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Elective—all certificates

## WITCHES OF OCTOBER

It's October, and witches and their signs abound in the woods of Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton, Massachusetts. Witches' brooms hang in the trees, witches' caps can be found on the leaves, and witches' flowers adorn the trees. Come celebrate the season with an entertaining and educational walk led by naturalist Rolland "Boot" Boutwell. We'll look for late-flowering wildflowers and shrubs, and learn about the natural history of a variety of plants, including how they were used by early Native Americans, and colonial Americans, and how they are still used today. Among the plants we'll look for are Indian soap, the toothbrush tree, the toilet paper tree, and an antidote for poison ivy. Cosponsored with Massachusetts Audubon Society's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Saturday, October 6, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton, MA

**Course code:** FDT2045

**Leader:** Roland "Boot" Boutwell

**Fee:** \$15M/\$20NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Field—all certificates

## HERMIT'S CASTLE

Immense rock formations, fascinating plant communities, and a view of magnificent fall colors and the Millers River—what better way to spend a day in October? Join Elizabeth Farnsworth for a moderately steep hike to visit the Erving Castle in Erving, Massachusetts. These dramatic caves and talus slopes were home to the famous Hermit of Erving, John Smith, from 1867 to 1899. Roam the rocky ruins of his stoneworks and gardens, and botanize amid the huge trees and seeps that make this a very unusual place, ecologically speaking, in this west-central Massachusetts ecoregion. The loop trail will lead us down through rich woods to the hermit's valley, then uphill to a very different ledge community, where we can picnic and enjoy the vista. Cosponsored with Hitchcock Center for the Environment.

**Sunday, October 7, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Erving, MA

**Course Code:** FDT2046

**Leader:** Elizabeth Farnsworth

**Fee:** \$35M/\$40NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Field—all certificates

## INTRODUCTION TO WETLANDS AND WETLANDS ECOLOGY

Wetlands are crucial for the proper functioning of our human-influenced landscape. In this illustrated talk followed by a short field walk, wetland scientist William Kuriger will highlight some of the characteristics and functional values of our local wetlands. Intended for a non-professional audience, this program will help us understand how wetlands work to enhance water absorption and filtration, while serving as a rich resource for wildlife. The ecological interactions between wetland plants, animals, and the unique wetland environment will be illustrated both in the talk and during a late-morning ramble through wetland portions of the Hitchcock Center's property.

**Sunday, October 21, 12–3:30 p.m.**

Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
Amherst, MA

**Course Code:** WET4005

**Instructor:** William Kuriger

**Fee:** \$35M/\$42NM

**Limit:** 20 **Credit:** Elective—all certificates

## THE ECOLOGICAL HOME LANDSCAPE: HOW TO MAKE YOUR PROPERTY MORE HEALTHY AND LIVABLE

Your landscape should welcome you home and support the life you wish to live, while at the same time contributing to the health and vitality of the natural world. This workshop provides concepts, guidelines, and practical tips to help you make your home landscape more energy efficient, ecologically diverse, environmentally healthy, and personally satisfying. Based on 20 years of experience in ecological landscape design, Sue Reed's illustrated presentations and discussions will focus on how ecological concepts may be applied in home landscapes. Participants should bring several photos and/or maps of their home and property.

**Saturdays, October 27, November 3,  
9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
Amherst, MA

**Course Code:** HOR4250

**Instructor:** Sue Reed

**Fee:** \$160M/\$190NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Elective—all certificates

(over)

## WINTER BOTANY

This course includes classroom lectures on the taxonomic characteristics of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous and evergreen plants in winter, including hands-on identification of twig and plant specimens. Learn the significance of macro- and micro-characteristics, including growth habit, bud morphology, phyllotaxy, leaf and bundle scars, floral patterns, and fruits. Acquire experience with an extensive array of classroom specimens and field identification of woody plants. Gain confidence using a key to identify unknown specimens, whether you are a beginning or experienced botanist. The program provides lecture notes, a copy of *Harlow's Fruit Key and Twig Key*, and twig samples to take home. Bring a hand lens and bag lunch. Cosponsored with Hitchcock Center for the Environment.

**Saturday, January 19, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
Amherst, MA

**Course Code:** BOT3316

**Instructor:** William Kuriger

**Fee:** \$75M/\$85NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Elective—all certificates

## 100 NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR HOME LANDSCAPE

Bring the beauty, vibrancy, and hardiness of nature's own creations into every corner of your home landscape. This workshop will present the many native trees, shrubs, flowers, and ferns that grow naturally in New England. Sue Reed, a landscape architect with two decades of experience in designing with native plants, will illustrate and explain each plant's typical characteristics and habits. The plants will be shown both in their wild locales, where they form interconnected communities with other plants and animals, and in various home garden settings. Through interactive discussions and design exercises, participants will learn how to incorporate native plants into their own landscapes.

**Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
Amherst, MA

**Course Code:** HOR1801

**Instructor:** Sue Reed

**Fee:** \$75M/\$85NM

**Limit:** 15 **Credit:** Elective—all certificates

# Fall Lecture Series at Conway School

New England Wild Flower Society is pleased to cosponsor the second annual fall lecture series with the Conway School of Landscape Design. Talks will be held at the Conway School in Conway, Massachusetts. Space is limited, and participants are encouraged to pre-register by calling 413-369-4044, ext. 5. Check [www.newenglandWILD.org](http://www.newenglandWILD.org) for directions.

## BREAKING THE RULES: CREATING NATURAL LANDSCAPES IN THE REAL WORLD

Observing how plants develop in nature can lead us to a host of new gardening techniques, a surprising number of which are diametrically opposed to traditional horticultural practice. From choosing, arranging, and spacing plants, to the simple act of weeding, Larry Weaner will show how alternative approaches can yield more easily maintained gardens that express the rich beauty of our native landscapes.

**Monday, September 17, 7–8:30 p.m.**



**Larry Weaner** is principal of Larry Weaner Landscape Design Associates, a design, consulting, and installation firm for residential, commercial, and public clients since 1982. Larry is active as a guest lecturer and

instructor for numerous horticultural and environmental organizations throughout the United States, and his projects have been featured in national and international publications. In 1990, Larry developed the New Directions in the American Landscape conference series, which has a dedicated following among professionals in the design and landscaping community.

## CUES TO CARE: THOUGHTFUL WAYS TO DESIGN AND PRESENT MESSY ECOSYSTEMS

How do we retrofit nineteenth-century cities and twentieth-century suburbs to improve their ecological health? Join Joan Nassauer to learn how understanding changing perceptions of alternative landscapes of the future can help us to design more ecological landscapes today, whether the goal is storm water management, brownfield redevelopment, or more-sustainable residential properties.

**Wednesday, October 17, 7–8:30 p.m.**



**Joan Iverson Nassauer** is Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan. Her award-winning work focuses on the relationship between aesthetics and ecology, and she has offered

strategies for basing ecological design on strong science and interdisciplinary collaboration, both in the U.S. and internationally. Her book, *Placing Nature: Culture and Landscape Ecology* (1997), defines cultural sustainability for ecological design, and her new book with Mary Santelmann and Don Scavia, *From the Corn Belt to the Gulf* (2007), discusses how alternative practices could improve the biodiversity of agricultural landscapes and the water quality of the Gulf of Mexico.

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Can our landscapes be producers of clean water and air, biodiversity, beauty, and a sense of place? What do native plants offer in accomplishing those lofty goals that other plants don't? Dale Hendricks will explore these questions and present a selection of mid-Atlantic and New England natives and cultivars that can help bring about these verdant landscapes.

**Thursday, November 1, 7–8:30 p.m.**



**Dale Hendricks** is co-owner and founder of North Creek Nurseries in Landenberg, Pennsylvania. North Creek is a propagation nursery supplying eastern North American natives and cultivars to wholesale

and retail nurseries, as well as for highway, municipal, and conservation restoration projects. Dale has focused on propagating native perennials, grasses, and ferns for more than twenty years.

## NASAMI FARM NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

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