

EVENINGS WITH EXPERTS: 2020

A Public Lecture Series ~ at the Cambridge Public Library with a special event at the Harvard Science Center

First Wednesdays
February through May
7:00-8:30 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US!
Events are free and open to all.



Special Event Location: Harvard University Science Center Hall B, 1 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA

FEBRUARY 5

Nature's Best Hope

Doug Tallamy

Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Biology, University of Delaware

Recent headlines about global insect declines, the impending extinction of one million species worldwide, and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our present-day standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Doug Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can—and must take—to reverse declining biodiversity and to explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope. ••• [Doug Tallamy is the nationally acclaimed author of *Bringing Nature Home*. His newest book, *Nature's Best Hope*, is being released in February, concurrently with this event.](#)

MARCH 4

Climate Change, Conservation, and the Role of Native Plant Horticulture

Jesse Bellemare

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Smith College

As our world warms, the distributions of many native plant species are shifting with the climate. But not all species will keep pace with modern climate change, and some could face extinction. This poses a dilemma—what role should we take in helping native plant populations migrate? How do we balance our instinct for preservation with the risk of a relocated plant species disrupting the ecology of its new region? Jesse Bellemare will explore these questions in the context of the constant evolution of plant ranges over time, and the current insights we can gain from native plant horticulture. ••• [Jesse Bellemare's research focuses on the ecology and biogeography of forest plants in the eastern United States. He is currently the president of the New England Botanical Club.](#)

APRIL 1

Designing with Plant Communities

Dan Jaffe

Horticulturist, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary

All too often, during the design process, we think of plants on an individual or species basis. Yet in the landscape, plants are constantly interacting with one another in intricate ways. What happens if we create planting plans focused on complete systems rather than collections of individuals? Join us to learn how to create healthy, resilient plant communities that are beautiful and ecologically vibrant. Dan Jaffe will discuss how to select and combine the right species for specific site conditions, and how this community-oriented approach can be applied to plantings of all sizes. ••• [Dan Jaffe is passionate about ecological horticulture, and enhancing the wildlife value of every landscape. He is the co-author of *Native Plants for New England Gardens*.](#)

MAY 6

Native Bees: Our Pollination Powerhouses

Heather Holm

*Author, *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide**

Native bees are the most important and effective pollinators for our flowering plants. Although they play a crucial role in sustaining biodiversity, they are poorly understood and under threat from human activity. Heather Holm will teach us how to recognize common bee genera, and enlighten us about their fascinating life cycles, nesting habitat, and foraging needs. Come learn more about the mutualistic relationships that they have with native plants—a powerful reminder that the salvation of one is inextricably linked to the proper stewardship of the other. ••• [Heather Holm is an expert on pollinators whose first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, brought her national attention. Her recent book, *Bees*, won the 2018 American Horticultural Society Book Award.](#)

More Info:

grownativemass.org

Thank you to our community partners: Cambridge Public Library, Mount Auburn Cemetery, and the Boston Society of Landscape Architects.

Every garden matters ~ Every landscape counts®