Kelly Billing’s love of gardening and over 25 years of experience as manager of Maryland Aquatic Nurseries has resulted in an encyclopedic knowledge of aquatic plants and ponds. She uses this understanding to create beautiful and tranquil sites including wildlife habitats and delightful children’s spaces. She also lectures and writes, and has recently co-authored Water Gardeners Bible and The Lotus, Know It and Grow It. Kelly also compiled and maintains the Aquatic Plant Invasive Species List to help the nursery trade monitor and manage invasives.

Award-winning landscape architect Sheila Brady is a recognized leader and innovator in the field of sustainable design for public, private, corporate, and residential clients. A recipient of a Residential Design Award of Honor for Sustainability from the American Society of Landscape Architects, Ms. Brady is a principal of the renowned firm Oehme van Sweden Landscape Architecture, where for 25 years she has contributed to their most distinguished designs, including the World War II and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorials in Washington, DC. Her recent design work includes the compelling new Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. James Ethridge has been working in horticulture for over 40 years, from farming in Germany, Botswana, and Asia, to teaching college, to his current position as a plant propagator at Mt. Cuba Center, a Delaware botanical garden and research center with a focus on native plants of the piedmont region. As department chair of the horticulture program at Joliet Junior College he taught courses in applied horticulture, and supervised the greenhouse and landscape lab operations. His extensive knowledge includes propagation of some of the more unusual and difficult native plants.

Joan Feely is the Curator and Horticulturist in charge of the Fern Valley Native Plant Collection and the Dogwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, where she has worked since 1986. She is the originator and coordinator of the Lahr Symposium, which annually places the spotlight on the topic of native plants in horticulture, landscape design, and nature. One of her current projects is collecting and providing wild collected seed for garden and restoration projects at the Arboretum.

Judith Jones, aka “The Fern Madame”, established the Fancy Fronds Nursery over 35 years ago in response to the demand for more unusual, as well as difficult to find, Northwest native ferns. Her interests and contacts grew rapidly and soon she was producing one of the most comprehensive selections of temperate ferns in the country. From Victorian fern cultivars, to new-to-horticulture and undervalued ferns, Judith has grown, tested, evaluated, and passed onto commercial growers the ferns that are now the standards for the nursery trade.

Jeff Stevens is passionate about raising public awareness of renewable energy opportunities, from commercial applications to home gardens. His knack for breaking down technical information into easily understood lessons enables him to connect with a wide range of students, from teens to professionals. An Assistant Professor at Alfred State College in NY State, he teaches classes in renewable energy systems. Jeff and his students have installed 3 photovoltaic solar-powered systems on the Arboretum grounds, one of which powers an irrigation system for a remote 2-acre research field.
Schedule of Presentations

8:30  Registration and Early-bird Plant Sale

9:30  Welcome and Introduction
Joan Feely, U.S. National Arboretum

Yes You Can...

9:40  Plant more Ferns
Ferns are ancient, 345 million years old, and they are tough, apparently tougher than dinosaurs. As owner of the premier fern nursery in the United States, Judith Jones’ knowledge of these plants spans from their pre-historic beginnings to current nursery production practices. See beautiful examples of how you can enhance your landscape using ferns to create evocative woodland gardens. Her extensive expertise will give you the inspiration and confidence to choose, plant, and care for just the right ferns for your site. She will also share how she came to suffer from Pteridomania, a Victorian affliction also known as “Fern Madness”.

10:45  Refreshment Break

11:00  Morning Concurrent Sessions:
Choose one from A – D from the list at right

12:00  Lunch and Plant Sale

1:15   Afternoon Concurrent Sessions:
Choose one from E – H from the list at right

Yes You Can...

2:20  Design with the Essence of Native Habitats
Sheila Brady tells the story behind her design of the newly opened 3.5 acre Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanic Garden. Designed as a series of microclimates, the garden includes memorable spaces that highlight the beauty, diversity, and cultural significance of native plants. In a compelling departure from the usual habitat-based model that has shaped many gardens, this design distills the botanic concepts of how these plants grow and multiply and then learn the necessary techniques to propagate them successfully.

3:30  Adjourn

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Registration Form

Registration fee: $89 ($71 FONA members)
Registration includes lunch.
Two ways to register:
1) Register online with credit card or check at www.usna.usda.gov or:
2) Send this form and check payable to the: US National Arboretum 3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002
Attn: Event Registration

NAME

AFFILIATION

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

> Please select 2 concurrent sessions: one for the morning and one for the afternoon:

Morning:
A. Renewable Energy in the Garden
B. Aquatic Plantings
C. Propagation
D. Fern Valley Tour

Afternoon:
E. Renewable Energy in the Garden
F. Aquatic Plantings
G. Propagation
H. Fern Valley Tour

Two types of lunch are offered. Please check your preference:
• Omnivorous lunch
• Vegetarian lunch

All registrations will be confirmed by mail or e-mail.

Sorry, no refunds will be given for cancellations received after March 19, 2014.
For more information please call 202-245-4521.