

Berkshire Botanical Garden
Rooted in Place:
Ecological Gardening Symposium
Sunday, November 12, 9:00 am – 4 pm
Berkshire School – Sheffield, MA

9:00 – 9:20

Registration and Coffee

9:20 – 9:30

Welcome - **Mike Beck**, Executive Director of Berkshire Botanical Garden

9:30 – 10:30

Tradd Cotter, *The Mushroom Matrix: The Dark Matter that Binds All Life*

10:30 – 10:45

Break: Book Sales

10:45 – 11:45

Michael Nadeau, *Controlling Invasive Plants Without Chemicals*

11:45 – 12:00

Break: Book Sales

12:00 – 12:30

Plant Picks from Local Horticulturalists:

- **Dottie “Lou” Kratt**, Northeast Native Seeds/Berkshire Botanical Garden
- **Jenna O’Brien**, Viridissima Horticulture & Design
- **Heather Grimes**, Heather Grimes Gardens

12:30 – 1:30 (Held in Benson Dining Commons)

Lunch

1:30 – 2:30

Jessica Walliser, *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*

2:30 - 2:45

Break: Book Sale

2:45 - 3:45

James Hitchmough, *Learning from Meadows: Exploring Design and maintenance of Conventional Herbaceous Plantings*

3:45 - 4:00

Closing & Final Remarks

Visit www.BerkshireBotanical.org to see all of our year-round educational programming!

Presenter Information

Tradd Cotter

Tradd Cotter is a microbiologist, professional mycologist, and organic gardener who has been tissue culturing, collecting native fungi in the Southeast, and cultivating both commercially and experimentally for more than 22 years. In 1996 he founded Mushroom Mountain, which he owns and operates with his wife, Olga, to explore applications for mushrooms in various industries and currently maintains over 200 species of fungi for food production, mycoremediation of environmental pollutants, and natural alternatives to chemical pesticides. His primary interest is in low-tech and no-tech cultivation strategies so that anyone can grow mushrooms on just about anything, anywhere in the world. Mushroom Mountain is currently expanding to 42,000 square feet of laboratory and research space near Greenville, South Carolina, to accommodate commercial production, as well as mycoremediation projects. Tradd authored a book *Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation*.

Heather Grimes

Heather Grimes is a landscape designer and land stewardship consultant based in Columbia County NY with a background in horticulture and garden design. Her signature design style is informal with ethereal grasses and wildflowers to create spaces that connect the domestic residence with the larger landscape. All of her designs feature native plants to attract and feed beneficial insects and wildlife. Heather offers management consulting for native woodlands and meadows, oversee invasive plant removal and healthy native plant habitat establishment.

James Hitchmough

James Hitchmough is Professor of Horticultural Ecology, and Head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Sheffield. He also works in practice, and is best known for his very large-scale work on the 2012 London Olympic Park. He travels very widely looking at herbaceous vegetation in the wild, using this to re-imagine planting in gardens and urban landscapes. His most recent book, *Sowing Beauty: Designing Flowering Meadows from Seed* was released earlier this year.

Dottie “Lou” Kratt

Lou’s passion for plants began at 14 years of age, working in her uncle’s greenhouse in Columbia County, NY. She then attended the Pittsburgh Floriculture School and worked for several flower shops. Her “ah ha” moment was when she became the Propagation/Seed Bank Manager for Project Native for three years. While there, she became deeply involved with the use of native plants and their importance to our local ecosystems. She attended two National Native Seed Conferences in Santa Fe, NM. She gives workshops on gardening with natives, propagation protocols and seed collecting. Lou is a Gardener for Berkshire Botanical Garden and has been with the garden for over 9 years. She is the owner of Northeast Native Seeds, a small native seed company specializing in local native species. You can contact her with questions or seed requests at: dlkratt@fairpoint.net

Michael Nadeau

Mike Nadeau, landscaper, arborist and ecological designer for over 40 years. Founding member of the Organic Land Care Project, a sister organization of the CT Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Assn., which created the first set of Standards for organic landscaping based on NOFA and USDA Standards. Co-creator & instructor of the CT-NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course. Previous owner of Plantscapes Organics, a Fairfield County-based landscape restoration company since 1980, and owner of Wholistic Land Care Consulting, LLC, in Sharon, CT.

Jenna O'Brien

Jenna O'Brien is the owner and founder of Viridissima Horticulture & Design since 2003, has been working in Berkshire Gardens for over 20 years. Jenna specializes in container gardening, perennial garden design and care, and estate garden and conservatory management.

Jessica Walliser

Jessica Walliser co-hosts "The Organic Gardeners" on KDKA-Radio in Pittsburgh, PA. Her fourth book, Attracting Beneficial Bugs to the Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control, was awarded the American Horticultural Society's Book Award. The former owner of a 25-acre organic market farm, Jessica received her degree in ornamental horticulture from The Pennsylvania State University. She's taught a diverse array of gardening topics for over 20 years and is a former faculty.