



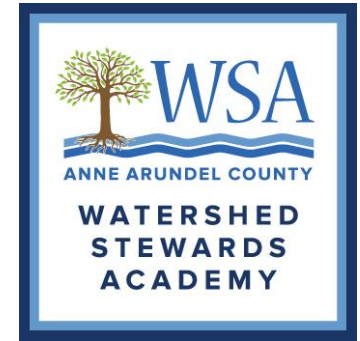
Controlling the Chaos:

Design Tips & Tools for Native Landscapes

WSA Field Conference
9/18/2021



Welcome & Introductions



Presenters:

Jennifer Klug Vaccaro, CBLP, Living Landscape Solutions

Tara Mairs, CBLP-D Tara's Garden Design

Josh Clark, MLA, CBLP -D, -I: Watershed Stewards Academy





What is your name &
favorite native plant?



Have you ever heard:

Why do native plants always look so “messy?”

Can native plants fit into my strict HOA guidelines?

How can I design a landscape with maintenance in mind?



Today's Agenda

- 5 Tenants of Controlling the Chaos
 - Basic Composition
 - Legible Landscapes
 - Designing with Maintenance in Mind
 - Landscapes through the Seasons
 - Editing Mature Landscapes
- Field Conversations





Basic Composition

Site Design Considerations

Natural Considerations

- Soil (Composition, Infiltration Rates, Moisture)
- Solar Aspect
- Wind
- Topography
- Existing Vegetation

Man-made Considerations

- Existing Structures
- Impervious Surfaces
- Utilities

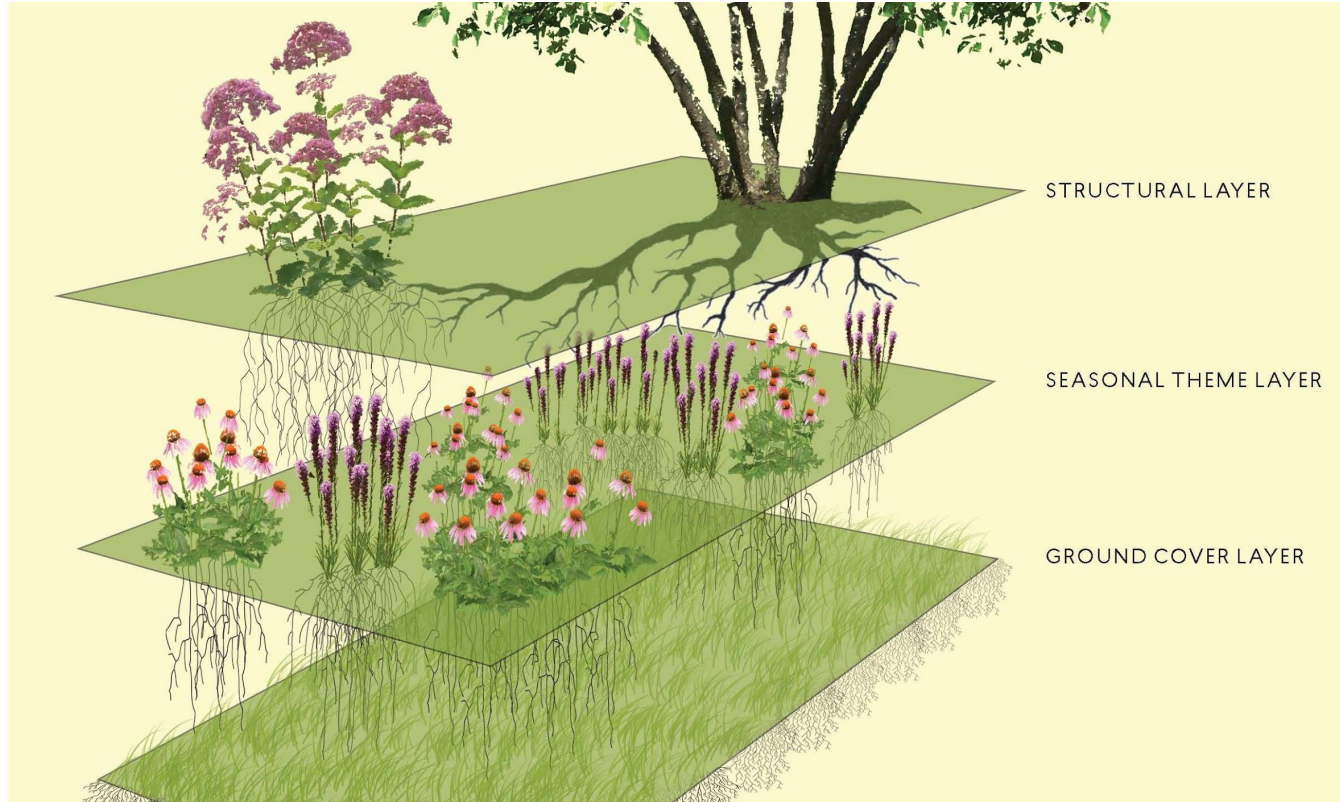
Massing



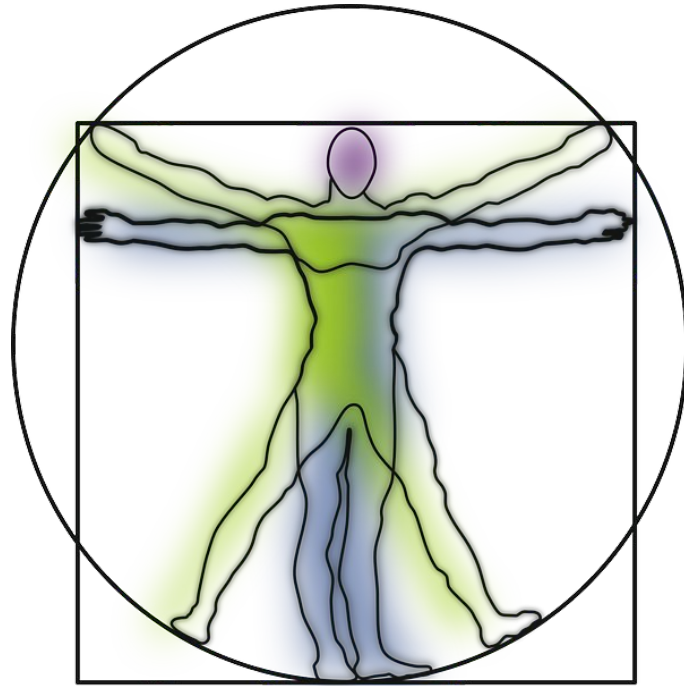
Layering



Layering Layers



Scale



Repetition and Rhythm





Legible Landscapes

Natural but Managed

Achieve that iconic cottage garden, with its riot of color and texture just bursting at the seams!

By planting in large drifts (massing) and spacing plants close together, a garden space looks intentional and fits into the typical landscape aesthetic.



As an added benefit, closely spaced drifts are also much easier to maintain. The volunteer gardener can easily discern what was planted and what is a weed.

The Formal Garden Goes Native



Mt. Cuba

(photo credit to www.awaytogarden.com)



Designing With Maintenance In Mind

Maintenance

Typical Maintenance Tasks

- Watering
- Weeding
- Pruning
- Mulching
- Cleanups
- Fertilizing
- Pest Control
- Etc.



What kind of maintenance is needed with a native plant landscape?
How can we reduce the need for maintenance?

Layering

Weeding, Watering, Mulching, Fertilizing

Density

Weeding, Watering, Mulching

Diversity

Pest Control

Plant Choice

Watering, Pruning, Fertilizing, Pest Control



Instead of Regular Mulch Plant Green Mulch

Packera a. (Golden Ragwort)



Dennistaedtia p. (Hayscented Fern)



Carex rosea (Rosy Sedge)



Callirhoe i. (Purple Poppymallow)



Matteuccia (Ostrich Fern)



Carex p. (Pennsylvania Sedge)



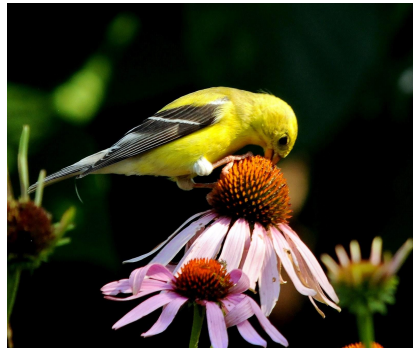


Landscapes Through The Seasons

Designing with Four Seasons of Interest

Interest can take many forms:

- Flowers
- Fruit
- Seed heads
- Bark
- Texture
- Movement
- Foliage
- Wildlife Attraction



Seasonal Interest Chart

Plant	Height	Width	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Qty
Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'	8	6	█			█							█	6	
Ilex verticillata 'Southern Gentleman'	8	6	█			█							█	1	
Panicum virgatum 'Northwind'	6	2	█			█							█	34	
Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'	4	2	█			█							█	37	
Baptisia australis	3	3	█			█		█							6
Amsonia hubrichtii	2	3	█			█		█							7
Aster oblongifolius 'Fanny'	2	4	█			█		█							4
Chrysanthemum 'Matchsticks'	2	3	█			█		█							3
Echinacea purpurea 'Kim's Knee High'	2	18"	█			█		█							25
Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'	1.5'	2	█			█		█							11
Sporobolus heterolepis	2	1.5	█			█							█	11	



Favorite Plants for Seasonal Interest



Aster oblongifolius



Packera spp.



Panicum virgatum
'Northwind'



Schizachyrium scoparium in winter



Amsonia hubrichtii



Editing Mature Landscapes

Reasons to Edit or Re-Home Plants

- Diseased
- Dead
- Dangerous
- Dense
- Done



How do I decide?

- What is your style goal?
- What is working aesthetically?
- What is working structurally?
- What do you love?
- What do you want to add?



What can be moved, thinned, or removed here?

Itea?

Monarda?

Asclepias?



Presenter Contacts

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