Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change

Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher


Garden Revolution by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher is both a delightful read and a fact-filled guide to ecological landscaping. Their landscape design philosophy: Work in partnership with ecological processes to shape the trajectory of each landscape project. Accordingly, the book discusses relevant ecological principles such as initial floristic composition, ecoregions, plant communities, and succession. The authors build upon that foundation by outlining landscape design, installation, and maintenance practices that cleverly improve the likelihood of success while also reducing the amount of labor involved. Many of these practices are in direct opposition to conventional horticultural approaches, such as weeding, fertilizing, and irrigating. The authors explain how to successfully incorporate vulnerable species into deer-infested sites, how to take advantage of subtle differences among plant species to successfully control invasives, and how to edit natural landscapes. The book concludes with step-by-step instructions for creating meadows, shrublands, and forests. If there is a hotbed of controversy in our profession, it must surely be the dispute over locally native plants and cultivars. In an inspiring and inclusive way, the authors show us how and why, over the years, one landscape architect has increasingly come to rely on the use of ecotypes, seeing plant species not merely as objects that must conform to certain height and color requirements but as genetic resources and actual partners in the design and maintenance process. Peppered with case studies from Weaner’s own practice and beautifully illustrated with 71 pages of color photographs from actual projects, this volume is a valuable resource for landscape architects, contractors, nurserymen, and homeowners alike.

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Ecological Restoration is a forum for people interested in all areas of ecological restoration. It features the technical and biological aspects of restoring landscapes, as well as emerging professional issues, the role of education, evolving theories of post-modern humans and their environment, land-use policy, the science of collaboration, and more.
“This is a beautifully illustrated book that offers a fully up-to-date treatment of the grasses in a modern systematic framework.”
—Anton Reznicek, University of Michigan
ASLA Communications Award Winner

Ecological Restoration is honored to accept the ASLA Communications Honor Award, as a forum that showcases design work in partnership with ecology and restoration.

The journal has a new feature, Design Approaches to Ecological Restoration. This special section showcases a landscape architect’s project design with a significant ecological component, followed by a critique from ecologists. The dialogue asks: Does the design meet its stated ecological goals? In what ways could the landscape architect improve ecological services consistent with the design intent? How can similar future projects better advance ecological functions? This new forum provides a vital meeting ground for the two professions, benefiting both.

Ecological Restoration is a forum for people advancing the science and practice of restoration ecology. It features the technical and biological aspects of restoring landscapes, as well as collaborations between restorationists and the design professions, land-use policy, the role of education, and more. This quarterly publication includes peer-reviewed science articles, perspectives and notes, book reviews, abstracts of restoration ecology progress published elsewhere, and announcements of scientific and professional meetings.

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