January/February

Collecting Austrobaileya in Queensland: An Expedition from the Arnold Arboretum

Tuesday, January 22, 6:00pm refreshments; 6:30pm lecture [HB]
Researcher Juan Losada and Arborist John DelRosso discuss their recent collecting trip to Queensland, Australia. This was the second expedition from the Arnold Arboretum, the last one having taken place 50 years ago. Juan and John will informally talk about the expedition, and share pictures and videos from the tropical rainforest.

Fee $35 member, $48 nonmember

When America First Met China: An Exotic History of Tea, Drugs, and Money in the Age of Sail

Tue, Jan 29, 6:30–8:00pm [HB]
Best-selling author Eric Jay Dolin will trace America’s fraught relationship with China back to its roots: the unforgiving nineteenth-century seas that separated a brash, rising naval power from a battered ancient empire. He will delve into the furious trade in furs, opium, and bêche-de-mer—a rare sea cucumber delicacy—which might have catalyzed America’s emerging economy, but also sparked an ecological and human rights catastrophe of such epic proportions that the reverberations can still be felt today.

Fee $5 member, $15 nonmember

February

Grafting Techniques for Ornamental Trees
Sat, Feb 2, 9:00am-4:00pm [DG]
Arnold Arboretum propagator Jack Alexander will teach methods of grafting and guide practice in making graft unions with both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. (Simple aftercare will be required until planting out in late spring.) See details online.

Fee $90 member, $120 nonmember

Dwarf Conifer and Juniper Collections via Snowshoes
Sat, Feb 23, 10:00am–12:00pm [HB]
Join Jen Kettell for a tromp through the dwarf conifer and juniper collections on snowshoe. She will help you identify common conifers, share the stories behind the plants, impart the history of the two collections, and describe the microclimate in this part of the Arnold Arboretum. See details online.

Fee $25 member, $35 nonmember

Bioengineering: Earth-focused Design
Thu, Feb 28, 6:00pm Refreshments; 6:30pm Lecture
Duke Bitsko, Senior Landscape Architect with the Bioengineering Group, will speak about bioengineering, an interdisciplinary approach to site and resource protection in the built environment. With a strong land stewardship ethic, Duke applies degrees in landscape architecture, engineering, and earth science to development planning and design. With each project, the indigenous water cycle and watershed protection are the first considerations. Learn about his approach as applied to local projects including Walden Pond, Pope John Paul II Park, Magazine Beach, and the Watertown Arsenal.

Fee Free Arnold Arboretum and BSLA members; $25 nonmember

Offered with the Boston Society of Landscape Architects

March

Pruning Shrubs
Sat, Mar 16, 9:00–11:00am [HB]
Knowing what and when to prune, and how to do so, are important as you manage your home landscape. Learn the basic techniques for pruning ornamental shrubs for optimum health and beauty. Jen Kettell, an ISA-certified arborist will address topics including pruning cuts and tools; thinning and reducing overgrown plants; shaping and encouraging new growth.

Fee $20 member, $30 nonmember

Garden as Community: Planting by Guild
Kristina Jones, Director, Wellesley College Botanic Gardens
Mon, Mar 18, 1:30–3:00pm
Location: Wellesley College Botanic Gardens Visitor Center
Follow nature’s lead by combining your garden plants into guilds—diverse assemblages of plants growing in healthy, self-sufficient communities. Kristina Jones explores the functions and interrelationships of organisms in natural plant communities, and how they can be modeled in our gardens. As her prime example, Kristina will use the Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden at Wellesley College, where the understory communities are designed to support the needs of fruit and nut trees.

Fee $10 member, $15 nonmember

Offered with the Junior League of Boston Garden Club and the Friends of the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens

Wilson’s China: Plants Then and Now
Thu, Mar 21, 7:00–8:30pm [HB]
Edwardian botanist Ernest H. Wilson was the foremost plant collector of his generation, singlehandedly responsible for introducing more than one thousand plant species to Western gardens, many of them collected during his travels in China. Armed with copies of Wilson’s own glass-plate photos of turn-of-the-century Sichuan Province, Tony Kirkham and Mark Flanagan set out to retrace Wilson’s footsteps—and with the help of Chinese guides and local knowledge, they have created new versions of Wilson’s photos. Enjoy a then-and-now presentation by Tony with insight into the widespread change—and remarkable continuity—in China over a century.

Fee $5 member, $20 nonmember

Tree Growth and Care: A Holistic Approach
Fri, Mar 22, 9:00am–1:00pm [WH]
Tony Kirkham, Keeper of the Arboretum at Kew, Royal Botanic Gardens and Peter Del Tredici, Senior Research Scientist at the Arnold Arboretum will team up to present this program about the growth and development of trees and their care and management. Using their combined 70 years of hands-on experience with trees in managed landscapes, they will discuss all aspects of the tree’s life cycle, especially as it relates to their often complex interaction with people living in cities. Read more online.

Fee $65 member, $85 nonmember
Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener  
Wed, Mar 27 6:30–8:00pm [HB]  
Embracing gardening late in life, English garden legend Rosemary Verey quickly achieved international renown. She was the acknowledged apostle of the “English style,” on display at her home at Barnsley House, the “must have” adviser to the rich and famous, including Prince Charles and Elton John, and a beloved and wildly popular lecturer in America. A prolific writer, she was a natural teacher, encouraging her American fans to believe that they were fully capable of creating beautiful gardens while validating their quest for a native vernacular. Biographer Barbara Paul Robinson will speak about Verey’s life and her contributions to the field of landscape design.  
Fee $5 member, $15 nonmember

April

Growing Plants from Seeds  
Sat, Apr 6, 9:00am–1:00pm [DG]  
Expert propagator Jack Alexander will share techniques for starting various types of plants—annuals (including vegetables), trees, and shrubs—from seeds. This workshop is for beginners and those who have been frustrated in past attempts to transform seed to seedling. Fee $50 member, $65 nonmember

Forecasting the Future: Can Ecologists Predict the Fate of Plant and Animal Populations?  
Tue, Apr 16, 6:30-7:30pm [HB]  
Population ecologists study plant and animal populations in essentially the same way that insurance actuaries assess risks about human populations: they track births and deaths of different plant and animal species, and use these patterns to predict how these species will respond to changes in their environment. However, there is much less data about most species than about humans, and environmental planners often want longer-term forecasts than insurance companies. Elizabeth Crone will describe how plant ecologists monitor populations, collect demographic information, and go about the science of fortune-telling. Fee $5 member, $15 nonmember

Offered with the Cambridge Science Festival and the Harvard Forest
See more events at cambridgesciencefestival.org

Ginkgo Fest: A Celebration of Ginkgo biloba  
Sat, Apr 20, 10:00am–4:00pm [WH]  
Join three ginkgo experts for a celebration of all things ginkgo. The day will include lectures, a tour of the Arboretum’s Ginkgo biloba collection, and lunch with a variety of ginkgo nut dishes, and ginkgo artifacts from the Harvard Libraries.  
$65 member, $85 nonmember through March 15;  
$75 member, $100 nonmember after March 15

Speakers  
Peter Crane, Dean of the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University; William “Ned” Friedman, Director, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University; Peter Del Tredici, Senior Research Scientist, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University

Offered in Conjunction with the Cambridge Science Festival

See all of our classes and register at: my.arboretum.harvard.edu  
Or call 617-384-5277 for more information.

Key to Meeting Places at the Arnold Arboretum

DG Dana Greenhouses, 1050 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain

HB Hunnewell Building, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain

WH Weld Hill Research and Administration Building, 1300 Centre Street, Roslindale

Note other locations as listed. Details available online.