

For Release: March 20, 2009

LANDSCAPE DESIGN EXPERT, CAROL FRANKLIN, TO DISCUSS THE CONCEPTS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN PUBLIC GARDENS AS BRIT DISTINGUISHED LECTURER ON THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009; FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC; RECEPTION, 6:30 P.M.; LECTURE, 7:00 P.M.

FORT WORTH, Texas – Carol Franklin, Founding Principal of Andropogon Associates, will explore “Bringing Sustainability to 21st century Botanic Garden Design,” as part of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) continuing lecture series on Sustainability by Design — on Thursday, Apr. 2, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden’s Dorothea Leonhardt Lecture Hall at 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard. A reception at 6:30 p.m. in honor of Ms. Franklin will precede the lecture, which is open and free to the public.

Carol Franklin has worked with a wide range of public gardens in all stages of development—from those that are just beginning, to those that are not fully appreciated and need revitalization, to very successful institutions struggling to deal with their popularity. She is currently working with James Toal of Gideon Toal, in Fort Worth on a master plan for the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Sustainable design is a natural expression of the mission of a botanical institution. Beyond conserving energy within a building or using renewable building materials, their challenge is to conserve, repair and enrich the fundamental resources of their site — its land, water, and vegetation, its cultural heritage and traditions, as well as its human resources (*board, staff, volunteers, associated experts, and its relationship to the larger community*). These concerns extend to the broader impacts of global climate change, and the need to preserve and restore plant and animal biodiversity worldwide.

These functions are critical and position these institutions to make important contributions to planetary survival. This lecture will explore how the concepts of sustainability can permeate every facet of a public garden with programs, facilities and landscapes that are beautiful, inviting and compelling.

The 2008-09 series organized by BRIT and sponsored by Home Energy Americas and Oncor, presents green buildings and landscape practices that help Texans be better stewards of the environment and its finite natural resources.

This topic has directly informed BRIT’s plans for a 68K sq. ft. headquarters which will incorporate sustainable design in construction, operation and landscaping. The \$48 million project is structured to achieve Gold LEED certification when completed in 2011.

More information about the [future headquarters](#) as well as all lectures in the [Distinguished Lecturer Series](#) and can be found on BRIT’s website: www.brit.org.

Co-hosts of the lecture series are the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Botanical Society, and Fort Worth Garden Club.

Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on the Distinguished Lecturer Series and other BRIT free programs, visit www.brit.org or call: 817.429.3200.

About Carol Franklin, Founding Principal, Andropogon Associates

Carol Franklin is a founding principal of Andropogon Associates, Ltd., in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For 30 years she also served as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania, where she has taught since 1972.

A member of the early “Sustainable Design Mafia,” Ms. Franklin is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in sustainable landscape design. She has given training seminars for the National Park Service and participated in numerous sustainable design workshops including; the AIA Workshop on “Greening the White House”, the Sustainable Design Workshop for the Grand Canyon National Park sponsored by NEOS and the US Department of Energy, The EPA workshop for a Sustainable York, PA and the Habitat for Humanity and Global Green USA Environmental Initiative Symposium, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ms. Franklin has led the planning and site design for the Dallas Arboretum, the North American Butterfly Association, the International Storytelling Center, Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, and the Atlanta Botanical Garden and its new satellite the Smithgall Arboretum. She is currently working with James Toal of Fort Worth’s Gideon Toal on a master plan for the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Ms. Franklin is currently finishing a book on the Wissahickon Valley with co-author David Contosta, called “*Metropolitan Paradise, The Struggle for nature in the City.*” It documents the social, political and ecological decisions that shape the Wissahickon Valley Corridor. This corridor includes Wissahickon Park, a much beloved, 1,800-acre, preserved stream valley that is part of the 9,100 acre Fairmount Park system in Philadelphia.

About Andropogon Associates

Andropogon Associates is a planning and design firm founded to explore and demonstrate an “ecological approach” to landscape architecture. This approach is not just restricted to a concern for the natural areas of the site, but also embraces the meaning of ecology as “household.”

A household approach considers the entire institution—its historical, cultural, social and natural resources—as an interacting whole. Design solutions grow out of an integrative vision, bringing together the best of the past with a bold, exciting future. These solutions are also the most economical, with many issues resolved in a single intervention and many different components working together for maximum performance.

Andropogon brings a long and broad experience to the issues of sustainable design. Many of the solutions the firm initially pioneered—the integration of natural and historical landscapes, alternative storm water management, water quality treatments, strategies for increasing biodiversity and the restoration of native plant communities and habitats—are now commonly accepted practices.

Highlights of Andropogon's Work with parks including the Dallas Arboretum can be found on their website: http://www.andropogon.com/AAbrochure_Parks.pdf.

About the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

Opened in 1991, BRIT is a nonprofit international botanical resource center open to the public. Its mission is to conserve our natural heritage by deepening our knowledge of the plant world and achieving public understanding of the value that plants bring to life. BRIT fosters respect for ecological balance and the interconnectedness of all living things, the conservation of biological diversity, the integrity of scientific investigation and intellectual pursuits, and the desire to discover the unknown to expand humankind's knowledge and understanding of plants in our natural environment.

BRIT has conducted extensive research in tropical rainforests in the Philippines, Costa Rica, and currently in Peru and Papua New Guinea. BRIT's exploration of the natural world through field study, scientific research, botanical analysis, and educational programs places it in the forefront of conservation and preservation of Earth's finite resources.

At the Fort Worth headquarters, BRIT's staff presents workshops and educational programs and provides consultation to research scientists, students, teachers, artists, plant enthusiasts, vineyard owners, ranchers, veterinarians, farmers, homeowners, gardeners, lawyers, physicians, businesses, government agencies, museums, schools, arboreta, hospitals, and poison control centers.

With a collection of approximately one million dried plant specimens representing most of the Earth's plant families, BRIT has one of the largest herbaria in the United States. It has the largest independent herbarium in the Southwest and one of the world's best collections of Texas plant specimens. Its botanical library houses approximately 100,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and journals from 100 countries.

BRIT's primary facility is in downtown Fort Worth in a restored historic warehouse at the corner of 4th and Pecan Streets.

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