



New Course Fall 2018:

Ecological Planting Design for Coastal Landscapes

LA 597E, Fall 2018, 3 credits, Class Meetings: Thursdays 5:30-8:30 PM, DB 225

Professor Jack Ahern, jfa@umass.edu, 242 Design Building

Coastal landscapes in Massachusetts and elsewhere are increasingly developed for tourism and recreation. Contemporary trends in landscape design in coastal environments tend to be conventional, and unsustainable in many respects. And coastal environments often have unique/distinct ecologies related to soil, maritime climate and island effects. Ecological planting design employs native species with reduced fertilizer, irrigation and management requirements. It supports biodiversity and reinforces the “sense of place” that coastal environments enjoy. In addition, coastal environments are at the forefront, literally, of climate change and sea level rise effects –and ecologically-based plantings are well suited to adapt to these changing conditions.

This course will explore ecologically-based landscape design approaches for coastal landscapes, working with native species and plant communities. The course will focus on the making of publication-quality illustrations of ecological planting design concepts and examples for a book that Professor Ahern is writing. Student work may be included in the upcoming book with proper attribution.

The course will meet weekly (Thursday evenings) to discuss ecological planting design concepts and to review individual student design/illustration work. Pre-requisite is intermediate skills with digital design software including the Adobe Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator)

If you are interested, please email me at: jfa@umass.edu

And/or come to the class: **Thursday September 6, 5:30 PM, Room 225 Design Building**