



The 15th Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace

February 27–28, 2009
MassMutual Center, Springfield, MA

WELCOME

ELA's 15th Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace

Co-hosted by the New England Wild Flower Society

Digging In: The Theory & Practice of Ecological Landscaping

Never before has ecological, sustainable, and organic landscaping been so widely sought after! This year ELA is Digging In to offer an in-depth look at the newest and best of these practices.

The 2009 conference features over eighteen seminars and workshops presented by passionate practitioners, talented writers, and prominent educators in the fields of landscaping, gardening, eco-design solutions, and more. Sessions explore all aspects of ecological, sustainable and organic landscaping, including minimizing water use, developing healthy soils, supporting urban and suburban forests, and designing and building gardens with diversity and native populations in mind.

Keynote & Plenary Lectures ELA is pleased to announce:

Friday Evening Keynote Speaker:

Peter Forbes

Expanding the Story of Ecological, Sustainable and Organic Landscaping
Peter Forbes is a writer, photographer, farmer, conservationist and Co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Whole Communities. His successful conservation projects have earned Forbes a national reputation for championing stewardship that promotes the health of both the land and people.

Saturday Luncheon Plenary Speaker:

David Yarrow

C + N = Healthy Soil: Or how Carbon and Nitrogen Feed the Soil food web
David Yarrow is a writer, journalist, teacher, Earth advocate and co-founder of Wellspring in Syracuse and the Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. of New York. David currently teaches about the uses of powdered rocks and Terra Preta to renew topsoil.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meals

General registration includes continental breakfast Friday and Saturday, lunch on Friday (served in the Exhibit Hall), a plated lunch during the ending Plenary on Saturday, and unlimited access to the Eco-Marketplace. The Friday evening keynote lecture requires separate registration and includes a plated dinner. ELA, in collaboration with CISA (Community in Support of Agriculture in the Pioneer Valley), provides healthy, locally grown food.

Online Registration

Visit www.ecolandscaping.org to register online!

On-site Registration

Register at the event: February 27 and 28.

Continuing Education Credits

Pesticide credits have been requested from the six New England states, NY, and PA. CEU credits have been requested from MLP, ASLA, ISA, MNLA, MAA, NOFA, and Master Gardeners.

Conference Proceedings Books & ELA Publication

Prior year's Conference Proceedings Booklets are

available for \$20 per copy. Send your request and check to: ELA, 1257 Worcester Rd #262, Framingham, MA 01701.

ELA's Guide to Healthy Landscapes, Chapter 1: Volume I, From the Ground Up: Site and Soil Preparation is available for purchase: \$31.50 non-members; \$26.25 ELA members (includes tax, postage and handling). The chapter is an intensive look at on-site soil management for long-term health of the landscape, with 82 pages of practical and in-depth information written by ecologically-minded landscapers and professionals. Publisher and volume discounts available.

Contact Information

Visit www.ecolandscaping.org for online registration, general information, and conference details.

Attendee information

Penny Lewis at 617-436-5838

Exhibitor information

M.L. Altobelli at 978-874-1373.

Hotel

Rooms at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel are available to participants for \$109 per night. Reservations will be taken no later than February 16, 2009; call (413) 781-1010 or 1-800-426-9004. ATTENDEES MUST MENTION ELA OR ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING ASSOCIATION WHEN REGISTERING; THE DISCOUNT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT CHECK IN. Go to www.sheraton.com/springfieldma and click the "Local Area" link for directions.

Cancellation Policy

To receive a refund, your request must be received prior to February 12, 2009. A \$50 handling fee will be deducted. No refunds will be made after that date unless the conference is cancelled. For recorded cancellation information, call (617) 436-5838.

Disclaimer: ELA is a facilitation organization. Views expressed or products offered by participating companies or individuals are not necessarily endorsed by ELA or its co-hosts.



The 15th Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace

Digging In: The Theory & Practice of Ecological Landscaping

February 27–28, 2009 MassMutual Center, Springfield, MA

Friday February 27

8:00 am Registration opens; Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| 9:00–10:30am | Case Studies of Invasive Species Control Jules Optom-Himmel, Ingeborg Hegemann, Thomas Touchet, Mike Toohill Society for Ecological Restoration | Climate change: Catastrophe, Epistrophe, and Tree Stress Kevin Smith – USDA Forest Service | Managing Soil Compaction Paul Sachs – North Country Organics |
| 11:00am–12:30pm | An update on the ABCs of forest insects: Adelgids, Beetles, and their Control Dennis Souto - USDA Forest Service | Pollinator-Friendly Landscapes Ellen Sousa – Turkey Hill Brook Farm | Compost & Compost Tea Recipes Jeff Lowenfels – Author |

12:30–2:00pm Lunch, dessert & networking in the Exhibit Hall

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|--------------------|--|---|---|
| 2:00–3:30pm | Weeds as Indicator Species Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik University of Massachusetts | Integrated Landscapes: Following Nature's Lead, Part 1 Kate Hartnett, Lauren Chase Rowell, Marilyn Wyzga – Authors | Survival Strategies and Tree Connections Kevin Smith USDA Forest Service |
| 4:00–5:00pm | Weeds, Insects and Disease: Don't Shoot the Messengers Jeff Frank – Lyceum School for Environmental Horticulture | Integrated Landscapes: Following Nature's Lead, Part 2 Kate Hartnett, Lauren Chase Rowell, Marilyn Wyzga – Authors | No One Ever Fertilized a Forest Jeff Lowenfels – Author |

5:15–6:15pm Music/Cash Bar/Hors d'oeuvres

6:30pm DINNER & KEYNOTE with Peter Forbes, Center For Whole Communities
Expanding the Story of Ecological, Sustainable and Organic Landscaping

Saturday February 28

8:00am Registration opens; Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

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|----------------------|---|---|--|
| 9:00–10:00am | Introduction to Pond Design & Construction Tim Matson – Earth Ponds | Perennial Garden Maintenance: The Need-to-do, the Nice-to-do and the Nuts-to-do C.L. Fornari – Gardenlady.com | Ecological Lawn Care Forum, PART 1 J. Scott Ebdon, Ph.D. Associate Professor University of Massachusetts |
| 10:30–11:30am | Tree Box Filters for Stormwater Management and Retention Paul Iorio – Green Street Systems | Emerging Urban Environmentalism Tom Benjamin Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. | Ecological Lawn Care Forum, PART 2 J. Scott Ebdon, Ph.D. Associate Professor University of Massachusetts |
| 12:00–1:00pm | Lessons from Water's Edge: Restoring & Remembering American Landscapes Louise Wolfe Harvard University Landscape Institute | Sustainable Site Engineering Ann Kearsley, RLA, MLAUD Ann Kearsley Design | No session scheduled |

1:00pm Eco-Marketplace Closes

1:15pm LUNCH & ENDING PLENARY with David Yarrow, *C + N = Healthy Soil: Or how Carbon and Nitrogen Feed the Soil food web*

3:00pm Conference ends

ECO-MARKETPLACE

Be sure to visit the Eco-Marketplace and explore new options in supplies and services essential to improving your skills and your bottom line. Marketplace hours: Friday 8 am–6 pm and Saturday 8 am–1 pm. Admittance to the Marketplace is included with session registration. Marketplace Only passes are available for \$15/day.

- The Eco-Marketplace boasts some of the newest technology in the green world today.
- Visit the Skills Center featuring presentations offering practical information
- Enjoy Interactive Exhibits

BOOKSTORE

Visit the horticulture bookstore in the Eco-Marketplace. This is a great place to discover popular and hard-to-find publications related to ecological landscaping and other topics for the green industry.



Session Descriptions Friday, February 27, 2009

9:00–10:30am

Case Studies of Invasive Species Control

Jules Optom-Himmel, The Nature Conservancy, Ingeborg Hegemann, BSC Group, Inc., Thomas Touchet, SER New England/AECOM, Mike Toohill, SER New England/AECOM, panel moderator

Control of invasive plant species is a critical component of land management practices that support biodiversity. Mike Toohill will moderate a panel of experts who discuss invasive species control projects in Massachusetts. Jules Optom-Himmel and Ingeborg Hegemann describe a recently completed field assessment of invasive plant species distribution, helping The Nature Conservancy to determine the key drivers of invasive species distribution and effectively employ approaches for invasive species control. Thomas Touchet addresses invasive species control within a wetland replication area and looks at how invasive plants colonize newly disturbed areas, timetables for planting desirable wetland plants, and weed programs that utilize various control methods.

Climate change: Catastrophe, Epistrophe, and Tree Stress

Kevin T. Smith, USDA Forest Service

The quality of trees and tree care in parks, gardens, and public places can be improved through a better understanding of the connections within and between trees, their associates, and the environment. Trees in the Earth's temperate zones are well-suited to sudden, drastic changes in seasonal weather. But along with these normal changes are shifts and disturbances in global climate processes that are having real consequences to the local biology of trees and associates. Understanding the linkages between climate change and tree stress can help in making choices for sustainable tree and landscape care.

Managing Soil Compaction

Paul Sachs, North Country Organics

Learn how soil begins as dirt and is transformed into soil by growing populations of soil organisms. Paul Sachs examines how soil organisms interact with plants and each other, protecting the soil ecosystem from compaction (among other problems). He then looks at some of the most common causes of compaction (which includes biological neglect), what affect compaction has on plants, and how to mitigate it using both ecological and cultural practices. Use of compost and compost tea is part of the talk.

11:00am–12:30pm

An update on the ABCs of forest insects—Adelgids, Beetles, and their Control

Dennis Souto, USDA Forest Service

New England's forests continue to be threatened by insects new to the area. Where are the hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian longhorned

beetle, and emerald ash borer right now? Are they threatening our trees yet? How can these insects be managed to minimize forest and tree losses? Dennis Souto will provide and compare the latest information about each of these forest insects originally from Asia but now living in New England.

Pollinator Friendly Landscapes

Ellen Sousa, Turkey Hill Brook Farm

As New England's landscape becomes increasingly developed, backyards are becoming a "final frontier" in providing essential habitat for at-risk pollinator species that play an integral role in the health of our environment. Ellen Sousa will explain how to help sustain and restore pollinator populations in your own back yard, regardless of its size or location. Learn to choose the best plants to help feed and shelter pollinators, and some best practices for encouraging biodiversity in your backyard.

Compost and Compost Tea Recipes

Jeff Lowenfels—Author

The ingredients to make composts and compost teas can be varied for use in different environments. Jeff Lowenfels will discuss how to make and use designer composts and compost tea mixes to manage disease and insect problems, to enhance nutrient levels and to promote the right kind of life in the soils you use in your projects.

2:00–3:30pm

Weeds as Indicator Species

Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik, University of Massachusetts

Weeds are opportunists, thriving in soil conditions which are often less favorable for ornamental plants. Dr. Prasanta Bhowmik discusses how weeds can provide information about the landscape, from soil compaction and structure to pH and nutrient levels. He looks at the potential shift of weed species in the northeast with climate change in the future, the influence of weeds on soil conditions, and management strategies for selecting nutrients to control weeds. Dr. Bhowmik also addresses the characteristics of invasive species with special reference to invasiveness, habitats and their role in a landscape community.

Integrated Landscapes: Following Nature's Lead - Part I

Katherine Hartnett, Lauren Chase-Rowell, Marilyn Wyzga—Authors

Natural habitats display an interrelated system of plant and animal communities. Following nature's lead, Kate Hartnett, Chase-Rowell and Marilyn Wyzga offer suggestions for creating energy efficient, ecologically diverse, environmentally healthy and aesthetically pleasing landscapes for municipal, residential and commercial settings. These two-part sessions demonstrate how to beneficially tap into the energy flow that influences everything from climate to built landscapes

to wildlife habitat and movement. Learn how to take a nonlinear, holistic approach, using natural ecosystems as models, to establish beautiful, functional landscapes that look and feel as if they belong here. After a review of current climate science and emerging opportunities for integrated design of buildings and grounds, Kate, Lauren and Marilyn provide examples that connect the theory and practice of ecologically-based landscaping, based on Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead (UNH, 2007). They provide practical solutions that help soil to regenerate, plants to thrive and wildlife to flourish in real-world situations, while reducing energy inputs and saving money.

Survival Strategies and Tree Connections

Kevin T. Smith, USDA Forest Service

Every tree is a living system that connects its essential metabolism to the flow of energy and elements. Health and survival depends on the timely making and breaking of these connections within the tree and with associated organisms. Sustainable tree care supports these processes through proper planting, pruning, and soil care.

4:00–5:00pm

Weeds, Insects and Disease, Don't Shoot the Messengers

Jeff Frank, Lyceum School for Environmental Horticulture

The three biggest problems with Organic Landscaping are dealing with weeds, insects and disease. In this "Out of the box" presentation, Jeff Frank will show how landscape challenges can be viewed as "messengers". Rather than kill the "bearers of bad news", Jeff explains how to deal with these difficulties with good solid common sense.

Integrated Landscapes: Following Nature's Lead - Part 2

Katherine Hartnett, Lauren Chase Rowell, Marilyn Wyzga - Authors

(See previous description)

No One Ever Fertilized a Forest

Jeff Lowenfels -Author

Soil biology differs in old growth forests, secondary growth forests, and woody landscapes. Jeff Lowenfels will discuss the soil food web in these forest settings and how understanding these delicate interactions can help us make informed decisions about what and how we choose, plan, plant and maintain landscape projects.



Session Descriptions Saturday, February 28, 2009

9:00–10:00am

Introduction to Pond Design and Construction

Tim Matson, Earth Ponds

Pond building begins with an understanding of how ponds can be used. Examples include ponds for farm and garden, swimming, skating, fire protection, fishing, landscaping, hydro power, waterfowl attraction and husbandry, raising fish, and wildlife attraction. Tim Matson shows how to get the most of out backyard reservoirs. Construction aspects include permitting, siting, design of excavated and embankment ponds, water supply and circulation systems, maintenance, and landscaping.

Perennial Garden Maintenance: The Need-to-do, the Nice-to-do and the Nuts-to-do

C.L. Fornari, Garden Lady.com

Many people think that planting perennials means they don't have to do any work – once planted – always there. In reality, perennials can be damaged by frequent fertilization with synthetic fertilizers, automatic sprinkler systems that are poorly programmed, inattention to the basics of keeping soil healthy and the lack of ongoing tweaking that perennials need in order to keep the perennial garden vigorous and beautiful. This talk demystifies perennial care and explains how to bring clients, crews and others up to speed.

Ecological Lawn Care Forum–Part 1

J. Scott Ebdon, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts

Species and varieties are imperfect and grasses vary significantly in tolerance to environmental stresses and culture. Proper turfgrass selection is important in maintaining turf function with less input. To that end, turfgrass must be tolerant of major abiotic stresses such as heat, drought, traffic, salinity and biotic stresses such as fungal pathogens, which vary from site to site. Proper turfgrass selection at the cultivar level is as important as turfgrass selection at the species level. By understanding the selection process the architect and practitioner will have a greater appreciation for maintaining high quality recreational and ornamental turf with the least amount of input from fertilizer, water, mowing and chemicals.

10:30am–11:30pm

Tree Box Filter Systems for Stormwater Management and Retention

Paul Iorio, Green Street Systems

Tree box filter systems are gaining acceptance as a viable and sustainable alternative to traditional “end of pipe” systems in achieving stormwater management and remediation goals. The systems are unique in that they integrate aboveground vegetation with subsurface bioremediation principals to treat stormwater contaminated with pollutants such as oil/grease, phosphorous, nitrogen, bacteria, heavy metals prior to being infiltrating groundwater. Paul Iorio discusses the various manufactured

and engineered systems, their specific design and applications, chemical and physical remediation mechanisms, aesthetics, and current usage.

Emerging Urban Environmentalism

Tom Benjamin, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Increasing emphasis and value is being placed on “Green Design” and ecological design principals are being applied to big projects in urban areas. Sustainable technologies and design strategies like attractive rainwater collectors, drought tolerant, diverse, native landscapes, stormwater pre-treatment plantings, edible plantings of many kinds and the minimizing of long-term maintenance needs are all part of the new urban design and ecology. Tom Benjamin investigates some examples of the ecological design work used in institutional and commercial projects and describes specific issues and challenges related to soil preparation, plant selection and maintenance/client education.

Ecological Lawn Care Forum–Part 2

J. Scott Ebdon, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts

The second half of the Ecological Lawn Care Forum will focus on understanding the mechanism of turfgrass tolerance in relation to environmental stress with emphasis on low temperature, drought, water use, and traffic (wear stress) at the whole plant level. Dr. Ebdon will present his research on deficit irrigation practices and nitrogen and potassium effects and their impact on turfs' low temperature hardiness, evapotranspiration, and wear tolerance.

12:00–1:00pm

Lessons from Water's Edge: Restoring and Remembering American Landscapes

Louise Wolfe, Harvard University Landscape Institute

Ecological landscapers know that our concerns cannot end at the individual site boundary; private gardens do not exist as separate islands in the larger American landscape. Join us for this photographic and culturally historical view of beautiful and inspiring water's edge landscapes in the United States. Compare your reactions to these landscapes with lessons learned from recent thinking about landscape perception, river and wetland restoration ecology, and what good design can achieve in restored landscapes involving water. This awareness can be used to establish priorities for restoring our ravaged river and wetland landscapes.

Sustainable Site Engineering

Ann Kearsley, RLA, MLAUD, Ann Kearsley Design

Well-coordinated construction staging and site engineering significantly reduce damage to existing site conditions, including soils and vegetation, and help to protect critical drainage patterns, wildlife corridors and habitat. Landscape architect Ann Kearsley will discuss strategies for using site analysis, site design and teamwork to develop landscape and building construction areas with higher function and lower impact.

Keynote & Plenary

Friday Night Keynote: Expanding the Story of Ecological, Sustainable and Organic Landscaping

Peter Forbes, Center for Whole Communities

“Stories are the secret reservoirs of values: change the stories individuals and nations live by and tell themselves and you change the individuals and nations. Nations and people are largely the stories they tell themselves” Ben Okri

We all tell stories – to ourselves, to each other and to our communities. Challenging world events and environmental issues contribute to how many of us narrate the relationship between our personal actions and the welfare of nature and neighborhoods.

To focus on a single issue, such as ecologically sustainable landscaping, is both a privilege as well as a source of isolation. While attendees and exhibitors at the at this year's conference seek to learn practical skills, they are also aware (or they hope) that their environmentally sensitive practices have a positive impact of the surrounding bioregion and community. They are part of an environmental movement that has over 10,000 organizations. These organizations represent 10,000 visions of the current state of local, national and international environmental concerns. These movements for change are as divided and fragmented as the culture we live in. These divides hurt people and the earth. There is no coherent story that all share.

Peter Forbes is working to change that bleak assessment. He strives to reweave the environmental movement from the center by working through “issues” to see problems in the context of larger systems and to establish strong shared stories that allow for expanding alliances. The art of story has untapped potential in the field of conservation. Indeed, telling the stories of our relationships to land could be the key to effecting social change around conservation values. Whole Communities is about deep diversity and a commitment to inclusively – to work on behalf of all people and all ecosystems so that all may thrive.

Saturday Ending Plenary: C+N = Healthy Soils: Or how Carbon & Nitrogen Feed the Soil Food Web

David Yarrow

The new soil fertility paradigm is biological, based on managing microbiotic communities to foster complex, diverse and stable soil food webs. Carbon and nitrogen are less food or fuel, than blocks to build housing and habitat as shelter and storage for microbes. Converting plant biomass to biochar sequesters carbon, creates sustainable fertility, reduces fertilizers and fossil fuels, cuts carbon, nitrogen and sulfur emissions, produces renewable biofuels, and—best of all—grows nutrient dense foods. This newly emerging carbon-negative strategy is Terra Preta: a legacy left by an ancient Amazon civilization. David's presentation will focus on the materials and techniques used to create “microbial reefs” to improved soil fertility.



Speaker Biographies

Thomas Benjamin is a Senior Landscape Architect at VHB. He has more than 15 years experience in environmental design work often focused on ecological restoration and green design. His restoration experience includes assessment, design, and construction of upland, wetland, riparian and coastal sites/properties using low tech bioengineering solutions. In addition, Mr. Benjamin's site planning work emphasizes low maintenance native plantings for public facilities, commercial, institutional, residential developments and private residences. His work has often encompassed creation and enhancement of natural stormwater filtration systems in both developed and natural contexts. He also has natural resource planning and land use regulatory experience. His skills support projects from conceptual planning through design, construction and monitoring phases. He enjoys weeding the woods.

Dr. Prasanta C. Bhowmik is Professor of Weed Science and Turfgrass Management, Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. His current research focuses on how to reduce herbicide use for weed management strategies with emphasis on cultural practices, sequential applications, reduced rate use, organic products, and growth regulators. Prof. Bhowmik's research has been published in over 125 refereed journal articles and several book chapters, 450 abstracts and reports, and 80 extension and popular articles. Dr. Bhowmik is an internationally known scientist and has received the Distinguished Member Award in 1998, Outstanding Researcher of the Year in 2000, Outstanding Educator Award in 2007 from the Northeastern Weed Science Society and the Fulbright Fellowship Award from the U.S. State Department.

Lauren Chase-Rowell, an advocate of earth-centered living, integrates the art and science of interior and exterior design using permaculture and simple living practices. She has degrees in entomology, horticulture, and education, certification in permaculture design and education, and is a landscape professional with the NH Landscape Association. She taught sustainable landscaping at UNH for 14 years, and is a 2000 graduate of the NOFA Organic Landcare program. Lauren's business, Outdoor Rooms: Sustainable and Ecological Landscape Design Services, provides her clients with highly functional and aesthetic landscapes integrated into the local, natural systems. She juggles farming, family, and community in Nottingham, NH.

J. Scott Ebdon is Associate Professor of turfgrass management in the Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts. His mission is to reduce energy input and associated cost in the maintenance of turfgrass systems including golf, sports and lawn turf. Scott's research focuses on understanding mechanisms of turfgrass tolerance to environmental stress with emphasis on

low temperature, drought, water use, and traffic (wear stress) at the whole plant level. He is studying deficit irrigation practices and nitrogen and potassium effects and their interaction on low temperature hardiness, evapotranspiration, and wear tolerance.

Peter Forbes is Co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Whole Communities, a new type of social change organization that seeks to build understanding between diverse organizations and create healthy, whole communities. Peter has led conservation projects for the Trust for Public Land; helped to protect threatened portions of Thoreau's Walden Woods; launched a program to protect and revitalize urban gardens and farms across New England; helped to add 20,000 acres of wild lands to New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest; and created the Good Life Center in Harborside, Maine, to promote the life ways of renowned land and social activists Helen and Scott Nearing. Through the success of more than one hundred conservation projects, Peter earned a national reputation as being a champion of a new brand of community-based conservation where the health of the people and the health of the land are viewed as equal. Peter's essays on land, people and culture have appeared in a dozen books including *Our Land, Ourselves: Readings on People and Place*, *The Great Remembering: Further Thoughts on Land, Soul and Society*, and *Coming to Land*. His photographs appear in *A Handmade Life* and many other collections. Peter and his wife and two daughters raise sheep and blueberries in the Mad River Valley of Vermont.

C.L. Fornari is a writer, gardening expert, professional speaker, and radio host who is dedicated to getting you into the garden.

Jeff Frank is founder and instructor at the Nature Lyceum for Organic Horticulture in Westhampton, NY, a not-for-profit foundation that has taught organic landscaping and irrigation to almost 1000 students. Since 2001, Jeff has also co-founded schools in Kent, CT., Philadelphia, Houston, and Phoenix. He has contributed articles to numerous newspapers, golfing magazines, and other environmental and health publications. Jeff has consulted to Yankee Stadium and most of the golf courses on Long Island, growers, landscape and arbor companies, and local botanical gardens.

Katherine Hartnett is a geographer who works on reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment. In 1995, she helped found The Jordan Institute, a non-profit center for efficient land- and energy-use practices. Kate now works on integrated design and development projects. Since 1992, she has collaboratively designed, and lived in, two energy-efficient active and passive solar homes (www.nhsea.org) and co-manages a 150-acre tree farm. She recently completed a high-performance renovation of

1910 home in Berlin, reducing energy use by over half so far. Kate's work on this book fulfilled a desire to help share a landscaping approach that follows nature's lead.

Ingeborg Hegemann is Vice President and Principal with BSC Group, Inc., where she is responsible for BSC's Ecological Sciences Group. She has over 25 years of consulting experience in environmental planning, wetlands assessment and impact analysis, and regulatory permitting. She is an adjunct professor teaching Wetland Ecology at the University of Massachusetts/Lowell and is on her local Conservation Commission.

Paul Iorio is an environmental engineer and educator. Over the past 15 years he has completed several hundred assessments of environmentally impaired properties and provided remedial response actions. These activities included soil and groundwater testing and contaminant delineation, as well as remedial system design incorporating principals of biological (bioremediation) and plant (phytoremediation) to achieve "cleanup" goals. Prior to this time, Mr. Iorio was an independent landscape contractor and greenhouse grower/operator.

Ann Kearsley is a landscape architect and urban designer with over 25 years experience designing and building landscapes for individuals, institutions and communities. She is the owner of Ann Kearsley Design, a full service design firm based in Portland, ME and her projects include private residential gardens, public parks and plazas, and landscapes for sculpture. Her work is founded on a commitment to developing meaningful and sustainable connections between people and the landscapes they inhabit. Ms. Kearsley holds masters' degrees in both landscape architecture and urban design from Harvard University and an AB from Dartmouth College. She is an instructor at the Landscape Institute of the Arnold Arboretum, teaching courses in sustainable site engineering, green roofs and rain gardens.

Jeff Lowenfels is a leading proponent of organic gardening. He is also the world's longest running garden columnist. His extremely popular weekly column has run in the Anchorage Daily News for over 32 years and his articles have appeared in numerous national gardening magazines. He is the founder of "Plant a Row for The Hungry" active in all 50 states and Canada. It has resulted in gardeners growing and donating enough food to provide 20 million meals to feed the hungry last year. He currently is a host of one of Alaska's most popular radio shows, "The Garden Party with Jeff Lowenfels" and is a former president of the Garden Writers of America, made a GWA Fellow in 1999 and inducted into the GWA Hall of Fame, garden writing's highest honor, in 2004. A former editor of the Harvard Lampoon and an attorney, (the horticultural connection garnered him the title *Continued on next page.*



Speaker Biographies

“America’s Dirtiest Lawyer”), Jeff is an extremely humorous and entertaining orator who has “nailed” the ability to explain how gardeners can use the soil food web, a complicated but extremely important subject. Jeff’s book “Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener’s Guide to the

Soil Food Web” published by Timber Press has been called the most important gardening book written in this century and maybe ever.

Tim Matson, a prize-winning writer and aquaculture consultant, has been advising people how to build and maintain ponds and wetlands for more than 25 years through Earth Ponds, his pond design and restoration consulting firm. He has written numerous articles on ponds and aquaculture for *Yankee*, *Harrowsmith Country Life*, *Country Journal*, *Vermont Life*, *Audubon*, and other periodicals. He is the author of the *Earth Ponds*, *Earth Ponds Sourcebook*, and *Earth Ponds A to Z*. He also produced the *Earth Ponds Video*. Matson has presented his ideas at seminars and conferences around the U.S. He lives in Vermont.

Jules Opton-Himmel holds a BA in Earth and Environmental Science from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT and a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Jules currently works half time for the Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy as the Long Island Sound Program Conservation Technician. The rest of his time is spent working as the project manager for the development of a green open-space residential community in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Paul Sachs is founder and owner of North Country Organics, a Bradford, Vermont based Manufacturer and supplier of natural land care products and Ecological Turf Consultants a firm that specializes in solutions for clients who want to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals on golf courses, sports fields, or other expanses of turf. Paul has studied natural soil system dynamics for over 25 years and is considered one of the foremost authorities in the country on organic land care. He has served as a member of the Technical Advisory Panel for the National Organics Standards Board of the USDA. Since 1993 Paul has completed work on five manuscripts that include the first and second edition of *Edaphos: Dynamics of a Natural Soil System*, *Handbook of Successful Ecological Lawn Care*, *Ecological Golf Course Management* (Co-authored with Richard Luff), and *Ecological Maintenance of Sports Turf*.

Kevin T. Smith is Plant Physiologist and Project Leader for the Northern Research Station of the USDA Forest Service. His research measures the effects of environmental disturbance on tree biology, especially growth and the response to injury and infection. Part of this research involves understanding how trees

and their associates capture energy, acquire and move elements, grow, and die. Research methods include dendrochronology, forest pathology, and biological chemistry. Smith has received several awards for distinguished science from the Forest Service as well as “Honorary Life Membership” from the New Hampshire Arborist Association. He is an Affiliate Professor in Plant Biology at the University of New Hampshire and has published more than 80 papers and journal articles.

Ellen Sousa is a writer, educator and garden coach living in Spencer, MA on a small farm registered with the NWF as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. She has a certificate in Native Plant Horticulture & Design from New England Wild Flower Society, and is certified as a Master Habitat Naturalist from Windstar Wildlife Institute. She writes regularly about natural habitat landscaping for magazines such as *Massachusetts Wildlife*, *BackHome*, *Mother Earth News* and *Birds & Blooms Extra*. Visit her web site and blog at THBFarm.com.

Dennis Souto is a forest entomologist with the USDA Forest Service in Durham, NH and has held that position since 1979. His work focuses on minimizing impacts of exotic forest insects through forest management practices, biological control and insecticide applications. Dennis served in the Peace Corps in Ghana, West Africa and was an entomologist for Weyerhaeuser Company in Klamath Falls, Oregon until moving to NH.

Mike Toohill is a Senior Environmental Scientist and Natural Resources Program Manager with AECOM (formerly ENSR). Mike has over 28 years of experience in environmental impact assessment and mitigation, and has a background in limnology and wetland ecology. At AECOM Mike has primary technical and financial responsibility as the leader of interdisciplinary teams of scientists, planners, environmental engineers, economists, GIS analysts, and other technical specialists on complicated infrastructure and land development projects. Mike is also the President of the New England Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International.

Tom Touchet is a Senior Wetland Scientist with AECOM and has experience in wetland and upland plant ecology, wetland delineation, wetland mitigation design and monitoring, and federal, state, and local environmental permitting. Mr. Touchet is also a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist and is advanced SCUBA certified and has performed underwater ecological surveys and underwater eelgrass restoration projects. He is also currently the State Director of Massachusetts for the Society for Ecological Restoration’s New England Chapter.

Louise Wolfe currently teaches a course surveying issues in water and landscape design at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Landscape Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, for which she has photographed sites across the United States and in the Netherlands. She received a master’s degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, where she researched river restoration. She has researched environmental strategies of river protection nonprofits, and commemorative landscapes. An attorney, she is a member of the Massachusetts bar with a background in public interest work.

Marilyn Wyzga is a professional artist and a teaching naturalist. She created and coordinates Project HOME, the NH Fish and Game Department’s award-winning schoolyard habitat program, engaging communities in wildlife habitat practices since 1991. As a wildlife educator, Marilyn writes about and conducts public programs throughout the region on enhancing landscapes for wildlife. She has applied her design skills to interpretive and educational exhibits and children’s theater, and has recently turned them to landscape design. In 2007, Marilyn was named New England’s Environmental Educator of the Year. She credits her parent’s bold experiment in family camping with her lifelong love of the outdoors, and her mother with her appreciation of growing things.

David Yarrow grew up in Syracuse, New York, east end of the Finger Lakes. He co-founded Wellspring: Syracuse Center for Self Healing and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York. David tested and taught using powdered rocks to renew topsoil, and thus all of Nature. David currently lives at Turtle EyeLand Sanctuary in the Hudson Valley southeast of Albany, where he dabbles in gardening, explores ancient forests in eastern New York, and develops a business to distribute trace element soil amendments.



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