



**"Advocating for responsible stewardship  
of land and natural resources in  
landscaping and horticultural practices."**

## December

As one year ends and a new year unfolds, ELA thanks you for your support. Whether you read the newsletter, attend the conference, tune in to webinars, or drop in on eco-tours, we value your commitment to learning more about safe and sustainable landscapes. We also value your participation in guiding ELA's educational events. Do you have a case study to share in a newsletter article? Know of a topic ELA should explore? Heard a terrific speaker recently? We are always interested in your ideas. Send [an email](#) to let us know your thoughts and interests. Enter EDUCATION in the Subject line.

In January ELA education ramps up again with three more webinars in the [Focus on Sustainability Series](#) and the [Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium](#) on January 13th. In this issue of the newsletter, two authors offer articles related to their presentations at the Symposium. And, a long-time member presents thoughtful advice for educating clients on the benefits of transitioning to organic. Plus we have a review of *The Magical World of Moss Gardening* while there's still time for holiday shopping and an EcoRI piece about research into the ability of beaver ponds to retain nitrogen. Enjoy these articles and the waning days of 2015, and best wishes for 2016. MS



### **Making the Case with the Client: Why Go Ecological**

by Carolyn Edsell-Vetter

Concerns about cost, fear of a less-than-perfect lawn, and the mistaken belief that "organic" means "messy" can prevent clients from selecting organic landscaping options. A decade has passed since A Yard & A Half Landscaping Cooperative transitioned all their maintenance clients off of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Find out how they make the case for ecological methods. [Read the article.](#)



### **Five Reasons the Use of Synthetics Is No Longer a Best Practice**

by Chip Osborne

Motivated by the knowledge that chemicals used in fertilizers and pesticides have had unintended environmental consequences, here are five reasons use of these synthetic products is no longer considered a best practice. [Read the article.](#)

Chip Osborne presents Healthier and Lower-Cost Lawns at [Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium: Exploring Ecological Options](#), January 13, 2016 at Wellesley College.

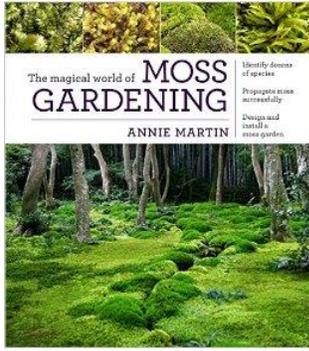


### **Beebe School Rain Garden Retrofit: an Unusual Collaboration**

by Clay Larsen

A case of illegal dumping helped to fund a lesson for sixth graders on stormwater management and the ways manmade rain gardens can clean up polluted rivers and streams. [Read the article.](#)

Clay Larsen presents Designing Rain Gardens for Long-lasting Success at [Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium: Exploring Ecological Options](#), January 13, 2016 at Wellesley College.



## Book Review

### The Magical World of Moss Gardening

Written by Annie Martin, Published by Timber Press, 2015

Reviewed by Amanda Sloan

In *The Magical World of Moss Gardening* Annie Martin, aka "Mossin' Annie," shares her long-held love of moss and the moss landscapes she designs. Whether you are a landscape professional, a designer, home gardener, naturalist, ecologist or teacher of botany, you will find much in this book to intrigue and delight. [Read the Review.](#)



## Nature's Dam Builders Help Remove Harmful Nitrogen

ecoRI News

Research at University of Rhode Island shows that beaver ponds in the Northeast provide ideal conditions for nitrogen removal in water retained by dams. [Read the Article.](#)

## ELA News

### January 13th Large-Scale Landscape Symposium

The theme of this year's Large-Scale Landscape Symposium is Exploring Ecological Options and speakers will discuss the development and maintenance of large landscapes utilizing fewer inputs and will consider the long-term sustainability of landscapes. Though presentations will focus on larger landscapes, topics are applicable to landscapes of all sizes. [Click for more information about presentations and speakers.](#)



### Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities at ELA Conference

The [ELA Conference](#) is scheduled for March 9 & 10 at the UMass Campus Center, Amherst, MA. Join us to immerse yourself in a two-day exploration of ecological concepts that support living landscapes. Introduce your company to the highly-focused, ecological audience: [become a conference exhibitor](#) or [sponsor](#) the 2016 conference.



## [Your Year-End Donation Is Greatly Appreciated](#)

## Gleanings

### Year of the Soils

The United Nations General Assembly designated 2015 as Year of the Soils in order to focus the world's attention on a critical resource. As the year comes to an end, you can enjoy the series of videos and access other resources on the [National Resources Conservation Services \(NRCS\) website](#), including short videos created monthly throughout the year.



### Grow Native Massachusetts Lecture Series

Evenings with Experts, a very informative series hosted by Grow Native Massachusetts, has two recordings available for general viewing. Check the [Grow Native website](#) to watch Jim Sterba speak about [Humans and Wildlife: The New Imbalance](#) and Kelly Gill discuss [Land Stewardship for Pollinator Conservation](#).



### Acid Rain Reversal

A new study led by the US Geologic Service shows evidence that the effects of acid rain on forests in the Northeast and eastern Canada are starting to reverse. [Read more](#) or [access the study](#).



### Speaker, Exhibitor, Sponsor Opportunity

[Sustainability on Campus & Main Street](#) scheduled for April 15th at Hampshire College and April 16th in Northampton, MA shares best practices and resources for advancing sustainable development both on campuses and in communities. Check opportunities to [present](#), [exhibit](#), or [sponsor](#) at the 2016 conference.



### Events to Note (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)

January 4-February 19 - [Winter School for Turf Managers](#); Amherst, MA.

January 7 - [Mobile Mapping Made Easy](#); Durham, NH; 1:00-4:00pm.

January 7&8 - [Zooming In/Zooming Out: Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive](#); New London, CT.

January 10 - [Urban Gardening Series: Water Conservation in the Garden](#); Cambridge, MA: 1:30-3:00pm.

January 11 **ELA Event**→[Garden Allies - The Art and Science of Conservation Biological Control](#) - Webinar; 1:00-2:00pm EST.

January 13 **ELA Event**→[Connecting the Drops: Creating Abundance with Rainwater Harvesting](#) - Webinar; 12:00-1:00pm EST.

January 13 **ELA Event**→[Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium: Exploring Ecological Options](#); Wellesley, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

January 14&15 - [Zooming In/Zooming Out: Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive](#); Blue Bell, PA.

January 16 - [NOFA/Mass Winter Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 7:30am-7:30pm.

January 16 - [Killer Plants](#); Amherst, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

January 20 **ELA Event**→ [Beyond Green Infrastructure](#) - Webinar; 2:00-3:00pm EST.

January 27-February 17 - [Community Training in Ecological Design](#) (5-part series); Boscaawen, NH.

February 10,17&24 - [Understanding and Managing Soils](#); Framingham, MA.

February 22-15 - [NOFA Accreditation Courses](#); Norwich, CT.

February 23 **ELA Event**→[Principles of Ecological Landscape Design - Getting It Right](#) - Webinar; 12:00-1:00pm EST.

February 26 - [Fire on the New England Landscape](#); Framingham, MA; 6:30-9:00pm.

February 28 - [Healthy Soils, Healthy Plants, Healthy People](#); Warren, RI.

March 9&10 **ELA Annual Conference**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.

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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join. [Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

 Forward to a Friend

