



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

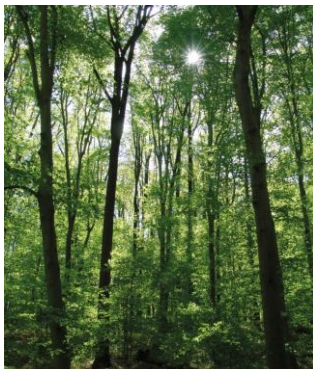
February

With the [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) just around the corner, this issue of the newsletter features articles by a few of our exhibitors and speakers. **Rick Darke** offers an excerpt from his recently released book: *The Living Landscape*. Darke presents a morning session and keynote at dinner on Wednesday, February 25th. He will also be signing copies of his book, written with Doug Tallamy, at the ELA Bookstore.

Eco-Marketplace exhibitors provide a wealth of information at the conference, and two of this year's exhibitors share their expertise in this newsletter issue. **New Moon Nursery** offers recommendations for the best planting tools when you're faced with tray after tray of plants, and the **National Fund for the US Botanic Garden** introduces us to its educational program: Landscape for Life.

And, over 30 speakers and panelists provide a wealth of knowledge. **Matthew Stephens** shares his tree expertise, describing how New York City Parks developed reliable sources for high-quality trees during its MillionTreesNYC campaign, and **Kate Safford** and **Mark Richardson**, experts at native plant propagation at New England Wildflower Society, detail their time-tested process for producing plants from seed.

These articles represent a tiny sampling of what you'll find at the ELA Conference. Acquiring great information from speakers and exhibitors, finding inspiration from professionals, making connections and creating new networks - it's hard to encapsulate the conference in a few brief words. You really need to experience it. I hope to see you there. *MS*



The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Diversity in the Home Garden by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy

What does a richly layered landscape look like? This excerpt takes a brief look at the layers often found in natural habitats and other landscapes beyond the deliberate influence of human activity looking at patterns and processes that can serve as models and inspiration for making and maintaining ecologically healthy residential gardens. And, we get a closer look at the Ground Layer, one of many layers of the landscape.

Rick Darke presents Planting Choices for Living Landscapes at 11:00am and The Essential Layers of Living Landscapes at 6:30pm on February 25th. The Living Landscape will be for sale at the ELA store where Darke will be available for book signing during lunch. [Read the article.](#)



From Nursery to Garden: Establishing Plants in the Landscape by Kate Stafford and Mark Richardson

There's little mystery to successfully establishing plants in the landscape. Most plants will thrive when given the right growing conditions. But, it's our job as landscape professionals to provide all the tools for their success - from choosing the right plants for the site and digging properly-sized holes, to proper post-planting care. Find out how Garden in the Woods ensures planting success. [Read the article.](#)



Tree Growing Contracts: The Solution to a Steady Supply of Quality Trees

by Matthew Stephens

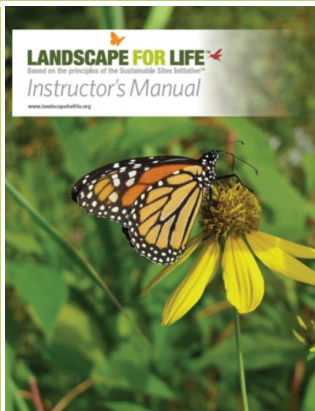
New York City is on the verge of completing a major tree planting project through its MillionTreesNYC initiative. It is expected that by the fall of 2015 one million trees will have been planted throughout all of New York City over the course of seven years. To complete the project successfully, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation had to answer the question: "Where will all of the trees come from?" [Read the article.](#)



Planting Plugs: Putting Tools to the Test

by New Moon Nursery

New Moon Nursery has specialized in growing native perennials, grasses, rushes, sedges and vines in 'Deep Plug' trays since 2003. Plants with long roots require deep holes, and the company fields lots of questions about the best tool for the job. Find out which tools their testing recommends. [Read the article.](#)



Landscape for Life: Put your Garden to Work

by Alexandra Torres

Our gardens have both a responsibility to support life and the potential to provide incredible benefits, but growing populations and urban areas infringe on natural areas, reducing the ecological services they provide. The Landscape for Life program, designed by National Fund for the US Botanic Garden and based on SITES™ principles, shows homeowners how to harness the power of nature. [Read the article.](#)



Eco-Marketplace Exhibitors

The 2015 ELA Conference welcomes the following exhibitors. Be sure to visit them in the Eco-Marketplace and find out how they can support your business.

[AirSpade Division, Guardair Corporation](#)

[Amherst Nurseries](#)

[Bay State Forestry Service](#)

[Compostwerks! LLC](#)

[The Conway School](#)

[Filtrexx](#)

[Fourth Generation Nursery, Inc.](#)

[George Washington University](#)

[Green Earth Ag & Turf, LLC](#)

[Groundscapes Express, Inc](#)

[Herbanatur](#)

[Horticultural Solutions](#)

[National Fund for the US Botanic Garden](#)

[Native Habitat Restoration](#)

[Neptune's Harvest](#)

[New Moon Nursery](#)

[North Creek Nurseries](#)

[Organic Plant Magic](#)

[Pavers by Ideal](#)

[Planter's Choice, LLC](#)

[Project Native, Inc.](#)

[Quiet Communities](#)

Gleanings

Member in the News

Trevor Smith, ELA President and lead designer for Land Escapes Design, was interviewed for an article that appears in the January 12th issue of Total Landscape Care. You can read his advice on ecological choices in [How Sustainability Helps Your Business Thrive](#),



Popular Resource Available Online and as a Program

University of New Hampshire's popular [Landscaping at the Water's Edge: An Ecological Approach](#) is now available as a downloadable pdf as well as a print manual. The book has also been turned into a program to train landscapers, property owners, and local decision makers in ecological landscape practices that will protect water quality in rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal areas. To sponsor a local training class, contact cathy.neal@unh.edu or phone 603-862-3208.



Emerald Ash Borer Threatens Fringetree

The Entomological Society of America reports that the emerald ash borer has begun attacking the white fringetree. Read the report at <http://www.entsoc.org/press-releases/emerald-ash-borer-confirmed-threat-white-fringetree>.



UMassAggie Workshop Series

The University of Massachusetts Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program has released dates for its annual Mass Aggie Series for backyard gardeners and small-scale farmers. Workshops are offered at various locations March through May. Costs vary. Find the complete list at <https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/mass-aggie-seminars-2015>.



UMass Extension Green Directory

The 2015 UMass guide to education resources for MA landscape and agriculture specialists is now available online. To view or download, go to <http://ag.umass.edu/agriculture-resources/green-directory>.



Grant Opportunities

The **Santander Bank Foundation** supports nonprofit organizations in the communities the bank serves in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Priority is given to requests benefiting low- and moderate-income individuals and communities. In 2015, the Foundation will focus its grantmaking in the following areas: homelessness and affordable housing; nutrition, hunger, and health; K-12 education in low- and moderate-income communities; financial stability for low- and moderate-income people; and neighborhood revitalization. The application deadlines are March 6, June 5, and September 18, 2015. The online application process will be available soon. Visit [Santander Bank's website](#) for more information.



The [Lintilhac Foundation](#) supports nonprofit organizations that are making sustainable, positive change for Vermont's environment and its people. The Foundation's areas of interest include the following: clean water economy, with a special focus on monitoring and stream corridor management; renewable energy economy, including nuclear-free awareness and promotion of renewable energy; and land use and environmental equity, especially recreational access to lands and integrative land use planning. Grants range between \$5,000 and \$30,000. The application deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, annually. Visit the Foundation's [website](#) to learn more about the grant guidelines and online application process.



UMass Extension Green Directory

The 2015 UMass guide to education resources for MA landscape and agriculture specialists is now available online. To view or download, go to <http://ag.umass.edu/agriculture-resources/green-directory>.



In Memoriam - Bob Childs

UMass Extension specialist, past ELA Conference speaker, and enthusiastic resource for "bug" questions, Bob Childs lost his battle with cancer on January 30th. He will be missed by many. Donations in his memory may be made to the Robert Childs Student Assistance Fund care of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association, PO Box 326, South Hadley, MA 01075; Cooley Dickinson VNA and Hospice, 168 Industrial Dr., Northampton MA 01060; or the nature conservation organization of your choice.



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

- February 19 - [Leadership Workshop](#); Charlestown, RI; 8:00am-4:00pm.
February 25-26 **ELA Event**→[ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#); Springfield, MA.
February 28 - [Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-5:15pm.
February 28 - [Pruning Shrubs](#); Arnold Arboretum; Boston, MA; 9:00-11:00am.
March 4 - [Wild Orchids of New England](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
March 6-7 - [Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); Ithaca, NY.
March 5 - [Perennial Plant Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-4:30pm.
March 7 - [CTNOFA Winter Conference](#); Danbury, CT; 8:30am-5:00pm.
March 7 - [MAC 14th Annual Winter Conference](#); Palmer, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.
March 7 - [Critters, Containers & Native Plants](#); Kingston, RI; 9:00am-3:00pm.
March 9 **ELA Webinar**→[Water Conservation: Landscape Design Strategies](#); 5:30-6:30pm EST.
March 10 - [UMass Community Tree Conference](#); UMass Amherst; 9:00am-4:00pm.
March 11 - [MEES Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
March 12 - [UMass Extension Landscape Education Day](#); East Wareham, MA; 9:15am-3:15pm.
March 14 - [Cape Cod Natural History Conference](#); West Barnstable, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.
March 15 - [Project Native's 5th Film Festival: Day 1](#); South Hadley, MA.
March 18 **ELA Event**→[The Orchard Ecosystem](#); Wellesley, MA; 12:30-3:30pm.
March 19 - [Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference](#); Southbury, CT; 8:15am-4:20pm.
March 21 - [Mass Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
March 25 **ELA Webinar**→[Low-Impact Construction for Living Landscapes](#); 5:30-6:30pm EST.
March 26 - [Pollinator Health for Agriculture and Landscapes](#); UMass Amherst, MA. 8:45am-4:00pm.
March 26 - [Climate Change and the Future of Plant Life](#); Cambridge, MA; 9:00am-4:30pm.
April 1 - **ELA Event**→[Green Roofs and Living Walls](#); Framingham, MA; 6:30-7:30pm.
April 1 - [Native Meadows: Let's Get Real](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
April 11 - [Project Native's 5th Film Festival: Day 2](#); Great Barrington, MA.
April 11 - [Growing Plants from Seeds](#); Arnold Arboretum Greenhouse; Jamaica Plain, MA; 9:00am-1:00pm.
April 12 - [Project Native's 5th Film Festival: Day 3](#); Great Barrington, MA.



Studio Phipps Manager, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Phipps seeks a full-time Manager, preferably a Registered Landscape Architect, to lead and grow a fee/mission-based landscape design studio rooted in sustainable design and Phipps' mission to demonstrate the important connections between the natural and built environments. Principal responsibilities include providing original landscape designs; working to develop, review and report on business development strategy, project leads and proposals to generate revenue for Studio Phipps; and networking with local, regional and national companies and organizations to introduce them to Studio Phipps offerings/services.

For more information and to apply, please visit our career page: <http://phipps.conservatory.org/careers-at-hipps.aspx>

Land Conservation Specialist, Kestrel Land Trust

The Land Conservation Specialist is responsible for managing and completing land conservation projects under the supervision of the Executive Director and in collaboration with Kestrel's attorney, Stewardship Manager, Development Director, and Outreach Specialist. Projects will be prioritized and approved by Kestrel's Lands Committee to fulfill the organization's strategic conservation goals. This position has the potential to become a senior level position as the organization grows. Look for Job Opening at www.kestreltrust.org.

Program Coordinator (March-October, potentially longer term) and Crew Leaders (June 22-August 21), Southwest Boston CDC, Hyde Park Green Team.

Work with youth ages 15-24 helping them restore urban wilds, learn job readiness, and take environmental field trips. The team educates and engages the local community in the restoration process and employs goats to help with some of the labor. **For full job description contact Pat Alvarez, palvarez@swbcdc.org, 617-990-4498. [Click here to visit the program.](#)**

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Mention of products is not intended to constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of ELA's directors, staff, or members.

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. *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*