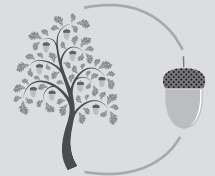




# Coming Full Circle

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace  
March 7 & 8, 2012 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA



## Pre-Conference Intensive Workshop Descriptions, March 7th

### Track 1

#### **Bringing Life to Urban Landscapes: New Ideas in Urban Design**

##### **Seeing Green: Designing the Urban Landscape**

Tobias Wolf, Wolf Landscape Architecture

We expect a lot from our urban landscapes. We want them to refresh and delight us, to provide infrastructural and ecosystem services, and to help us shrug off the intense stresses of the urban environment.

Landscape architect Tobias Wolf will explore strategies for how to meet these expectations by creating landscapes that are legible, inviting, and engaging. Drawing on his designs for Cornell University, the Prudential Center, and the Rose Kennedy Greenway, he will show how design that celebrates biodiversity and natural process can give our cities and suburbs new vitality.

##### **Creating an Urban Edible Forest: A Case Study**

Kate Venturini, URI Outreach Center

Incorporating edible forest gardens into urban environments could provide a source of locally grown food while also providing habitat for native wildlife populations.

Kate Venturini will discuss the goals and the process behind the creation of the Edible Forest Garden at Roger Williams Park in Providence, RI, and will elaborate on the design decisions made to accommodate existing conditions.

##### **Native Plant Communities Suited to Urban Sites**

Kevin Staso, North Creek Nurseries

Designing with the proper plant communities in mind leads to a more visually harmonious and balanced landscape while also enhancing the ecological value and biodiversity of the site. Creating a successful urban landscape requires understanding the diverse and sometimes harsh conditions that exist on the site, and overcoming these conditions with proper plant selection. Choosing a plant community that is well adapted to similar conditions is key. Kevin Staso will review a variety of herbaceous native plant communities that thrive in difficult conditions and that will enrich the urban landscape.

##### **Verticulture: Taking Gardens to New Heights** Trevor Smith, Land Escapes

The idea of living walls and green facades is nothing new; however, modern applications and the infinite design and business possibilities are!

Trevor Smith of Land Escapes will explain how new technologies in verticulture allow for more innovation in the design and creation of living walls. He will talk about the growing opportunities that verticulture offers, micro-climate benefits such as heat reduction and improved air quality, and how to incorporate the art of living walls into your design repertoire. For urban gardeners frustrated by the limitations of confined spaces, Trevor will share his experience with how living walls can take gardening to new heights.

##### **Water-Centric Sustainable Communities: Planning, Retrofitting, and Building the Next Urban Environment**

John Ahern, PhD, UMass Amherst

"The time has come to look for and implement new concepts for urban planning and design," according to Dr. Jack Ahern's latest book *Water-Centric Sustainable Communities*.

Such communities will use Green Infrastructure, the integration of high-performing green networks linked with ecosystem services (vs. green spaces) that serve to meet human needs for clean air and water. This presentation, illustrated with international case studies, will focus on urban applications of Green Infrastructure systems.

Dr. Ahern will discuss the theory behind the concept and address the broad suite of ecosystem services that Green Infrastructure can provide.

##### **Bringing the "Wild" into the Urban Landscape**

Thomas Benjamin, Regenerative Design Group and ECS' Energy Services Division

How can we bring the "wild" into urban open spaces, public facilities, and residential landscapes?

Tom Benjamin will share his insights and the techniques that he has used to integrate "wildness" into designs for urban environments. He will cover passive stormwater management, soil rejuvenation, habitat enhancement, aesthetic and maintenance considerations, and the nexus between human wellness and the health of the environment. Innovative methods

of reusing onsite materials to reduce our carbon footprint and control Operations & Maintenance costs will be addressed as well.

### Pre-Conference Luncheon Keynote

#### **Japanese Knotweed Control Solutions: Latest Techniques from the UK**

Michael Clough, Japanese Knotweed Solutions Limited

Armed with the latest techniques and nearly a decade of experience, Mike Clough is working to control and eradicate Japanese knotweed in the United Kingdom (UK). Based on his extensive research of invasive control methods, he will present a brief history of Japanese knotweed in the UK, including how and why it has spread and the problems it has caused. He will cover the latest techniques in chemical, non-chemical and bio-control (the release of *Psyllid* aphid) strategies as well as new "soil sifting" technologies. Mike Clough will also briefly address other invasives under control in the UK, such as Himalayan balsam, Giant Hogweed, and Ragwort.

### Track 2

#### **"Pro"active Protection of Wetlands: Conservation and Landscape Professionals Collaborate**

##### **Conservation and Landscape Professionals – Working Together In Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

Ingeborg Hegeman, BSC—Ecological Sciences Group

Theresa Sprague, BlueFlax Design

This workshop will be a unique opportunity for Landscape Professionals and Conservation Commissioners to share ideas and learn from one another with the common goal of preserving the ecological integrity of some of our most sensitive landscapes.

Ingeborg Hegeman will review the fundamentals of wetland permitting, including: the Interests of Wetlands Protection Act, Resource Areas and Buffer Zones, permitting and submittal requirements, the public hearing process, the duties and authority of Conservation Commissions, and the meaning of the Orders of Conditions.

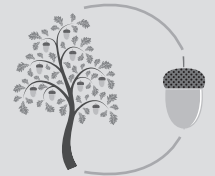
Theresa Sprague will address the importance of thinking beyond the regulations when

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designing mitigation and buffer plantings as well as how to best develop and present plans to Conservation Commissions for review and permitting.

## **Protecting Water Resources: Beyond Silt Fencing and Hay Bales**

John Engwer, Groundscapes Express and Phase II Stormwater Solutions

Site disturbance from construction, re-grading and other activities can lead to soil erosion and sediment runoff, degrading the land and adjacent water bodies. John Engwer will show how preventing and solving these problems with the use of compost topsoil, compost filter tubes, fiber wattles, and subtle grading modifications in lieu of the traditional silt fence and hay bales can provide both immediate control of stormwater and long-term ecological benefits. He will also discuss how invasive plant management combined with native plant restoration and follow-up maintenance can provide long-term protection of soils, water resources and habitat. John will demonstrate how a more holistic approach to stormwater management can create an ecologically well-functioning site with long-term stability.

## **Landscaping on the Edge: Creating Habitat Gardens**

Nanette Masi, Back to Nature

Wondering how to landscape along the edge of ecologically sensitive areas?

Nanette Masi will outline simple steps for creating attractive woodland landscapes and gardens that protect water resource areas and provide year-round food and shelter for wildlife. She will speak about habitat components, native plant characteristics and groupings, cultural requirements, and site conditions that should be considered when designing for habitat.

With her vibrant photographs, Nanette will highlight a variety of plants and habitats, inspiring new ideas and discussions.

## **Conference Sessions Descriptions, March 8th**

**9:00–10:30am**

### **Coming Full Circle: Restoration of Wellesley College Alumnae Valley**

Emily Mueller De Celis, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

Wellesley College's Alumnae Valley has come full circle. Once a green valley, over the decades it became an industrial site and then a parking lot covering a toxic brownfield; it has now been restored to a vital, functioning ecosystem. Emily Mueller De Celis, will discuss the site conditions and the design process that Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA) used to remediate the site, including assessing the unique ecological and topographical conditions, removing toxic metals, and restoring hydrologic systems and native vegetation. Other MVVA projects which have influenced, and been influenced by, the work at Wellesley College will be reviewed.

### **Ecological Pest Management in Turf**

Mary Owen, Extension Educator and Specialist, Turf, UMass Amherst

Ecological pest management is founded on environmentally sensible practices that enhance a turf's ability to withstand pest pressures while having minimal impacts on the greater environment.

Based on years of experience in turf management, Mary Owen will discuss ecological pest management for turf. Her presentation will include a discussion of basic cultural practices and how they affect specific pests. In addition, she will focus on selection, use and effectiveness of organic, biological, and botanical materials as well as the use of mechanical techniques for managing even the most difficult of turf grass pests.

### **Water Neutral Gardens: The Greywater Component**

Golden Love, Love's Gardens

Water is essential to our professional landscape practices. How can we maintain successful businesses if there are restrictions in our water use by government authorities? A Water Neutral Garden™ (WNG) uses no municipal or well water, and therefore offers a solution to problems brought on by drought. Golden will review the basic components of a WNG and explore the possibilities for greywater use. He will talk about how California's newly adopted plumbing code is beginning to address the water challenges of this century,

and will describe the permitted and permit-exempt systems his company has installed. Laundry to Landscape irrigation systems and the Aqua2use™ greywater systems will be explained in detail with plans and equipment for people to review during the session.

**11:00–12:30pm**

### **Native Plant System Design to Increase Habitat Diversity**

Kate Venturini, URI Outreach Center

As development pressures increase throughout New England, the number of landscapes now dominated by exotic plants and expansive lawns has diminished the quality of our land for native wildlife. As habitat decreases, the distribution of populations is altered and biodiversity is significantly reduced.

Ms. Venturini will discuss using the Native Plant Systems Guide as a solution to curb habitat loss and enhance existing habitat on residential properties. She will review the characteristics and components of native plant systems as they relate to siting, design and installation on home landscapes

*Session attendees will receive the recently published Native Plant Systems for Backyard Habitat: A How-To Guide for Professionals and Homeowners to Enhance Habitat Value on Suburban and Urban Landscapes.*

### **Knowing the "Enemy": Practical Solutions for Deer and Other Pests**

Barbara Hobens, Hudson Highlands Garden Design

Land care professionals hear it all too often: "I hate deer." Not only are they eating our gardens, but over-eating, due to increased populations, is causing the destruction of forest understory essential to songbird habitat. Ms. Hobens will focus her presentation on facts about deer and other animals that cause gardeners dismay, and offer some practical design solutions.

In addition to identifying the "enemy" and their patterns of behavior, Ms. Hobens hopes to also encourage the audience to understand the importance of welcoming wildlife into other areas of their property.

### **A New Program to Improve MA Waterways**

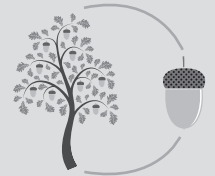
Alex Murray, MA Department of Transportation  
The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has launched a new program, the

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"Impaired Waters Program", to construct stormwater treatment for highway run-off into Commonwealth waterways that the EPA has classified as "impaired waters".

Alex Murray will discuss how MassDOT is implementing this effort statewide, building filtration basins, bio-filtration swales, and other site treatment features, as part of ongoing road and bridge projects, as well as stand-alone stormwater retrofits.

### 2:00–3:30pm

#### **Designs that Feed Us**

Ben Falk, Whole Systems Design, LLC

Ben Falk will present strategies for creating productive landscapes based on regenerative food and water systems which he and his firm, Whole Systems Design, have been researching and developing for the past 8 years.

He will discuss how to maximize productivity and reduce outside inputs. Using his work as an example, Mr. Falk will demonstrate how all elements of the landscape can be used for productivity and can serve multiple functions. For instance, trees can serve as windbreaks as well as to provide fuel and produce food for human consumption; topography is shaped to create microclimate as well as to manage water; and farm animals provide fertilizer, control vegetation, and are a source of food.

Join Ben Falk as he talks in-depth about these strategies and how they can be incorporated into more traditional suburban and urban landscapes.

#### **Going to Extremes: How Climate Change Could Impact Invasive Species**

Jennifer Forman Orth, MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Hotter hots, colder colds, more severe weather events, rising sea levels...sounds like a disaster movie, but it's likely our reality as climate change takes hold. Learn about how climate change could impact invasive weeds, insects and plant pathogens in ways that scientists are just beginning to predict. What new invaders could take hold in Massachusetts? What invasive species are already in the area waiting for the opportunity to expand their range? From average temperature changes to altered nutrient cycling to new vectors of spread, learn to think about climate change from an invasion ecology perspective, so that you're able to start thinking about how best to prepare the most resilient landscapes.

#### **Our Neighbors Down Under: Microbes in the Soil**

Joe Magazzi, Green Earth Agriculture

Essential to understanding soil and plant health is knowledge of the interactions of soil microbes and the functions they perform. With increased reliance on chemicals for fertilizing and pest control, soil microbes and the beneficial functions they provide have been ignored. Joe Magazzi will discuss microbial interactions and how they improve soil quality. He will also focus on how, by improving the microbiology of your soil, you can reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

### 4:00–5:30pm

#### **SITES on the Ground: Lessons from a Long Island Pilot Project**

CeCe Haydock, Constance T. Haydock Landscape Architecture

SITES (Sustainable Sites Initiative) is testing a new guideline and rating system to include the area "outside the building's skin" on a pilot project on Long Island.

What is this new system and what are the difficulties faced by the pilot project following this new protocol? How can practitioners employ the SITES "Guidelines and Benchmarks" in their projects?

CeCe Haydock, current project manager of this project, will address these SITE related questions and more.

#### **Protecting Biodiversity: Prioritizing Invasive Control Efforts**

Julie Richburgh PhD, Trustees of Reservations

Non-native invasive species are the single greatest threat to biodiversity on lands owned by The Trustees of Reservations. Guidelines have been developed to prioritize invasive plant control efforts, ensuring that finite dollars and human resources are used most effectively to target significant natural resources. Dr. Julie Richburgh will discuss these guidelines and demonstrate how management based on prioritization has proven critical to the Trustees' success in protecting biodiversity on their properties, resulting in increased rare species populations and improvement of key habitats.

#### **Going Up and Out: Green Roofs and Living Walls**

Jimmy Dick, Furbish Company

Plants provide essential services for humans, including water infiltration, pollutant uptake, heat relief, erosion control, and air filtration. Jimmy Dick will describe how living roofs and living walls perform these services. He will review the types of soils used in such projects, construction methods, and the lessons that have been learned from projects built.

### 6:30–8:30pm Keynote

#### **Landscapes Coming Full Circle: Cultivating Resilience in a Time of Transition**

Ben Falk, Whole Systems Design, LLC

Until recently, every generation has relied upon the local landscape to support basic needs; landscapes were not merely decorative. However, confronted by the challenges of climate change, post peak oil and resource scarcity, landscape designers and land managers will be forced to reevaluate how they view and use land.

Ben Falk has already begun the process of developing landscapes that prepare us to meet these challenges. He will discuss his work and vision of landscapes that will allow communities to more successfully face the challenges that lie ahead—landscapes designed to maximize productivity of the land while reducing outside inputs. Ultimately, these productive landscapes and the "whole system approach" involved in their design and construction will allow communities to be more self-reliant and resilient in the future.

Ben will discuss principles that drive his firm's design and development work, examples of these in action across the globe, and strategies for developing such systems in conventional suburban and urban landscapes.