



ecological
landscaping
association

biodiversity • conservation • lawn care
maintenance • meadows • rain gardens
pest management • restoration
soil • trees • urban landscaping
water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

January 2013

Two days of top-notch education are in the works for ELA's 19th annual Conference on Feb. 27 & 28. From healthy soil to happy pollinators, edible gardens to managed meadow, Conference sessions offer the gamut of information for anyone interested in ecological land care. If your paper copy of the brochure has gone missing, you can [go directly to the website](#) for the brochure, schedule, and registration. As you look through the great list of speakers and topics, I hope you'll take a minute to share the highlights with your friends on social media. The incredible optimism and energy everyone relishes at the Conference are hard to describe in a 140-character tweet, but it's a learning and networking opportunity well worth sharing.

This issue of the Newsletter offers you a window into what you'll see and hear at this year's Conference. Articles by Keynote Speakers Jeff Lowenfels and Rebecca McMackin provide a glimpse of the work they do and the wealth of information they have to share. Michael Phillips offers an excerpt from his book *The Holistic Orchard*, an incredible resource for "edibles" enthusiasts. Long-time ELA supporter Project Native will exhibit at the Conference again this year and has provided an article with advice on providing habitat for native bee populations. Enjoy the articles and be sure to take a look at that [Brochure!](#) MS

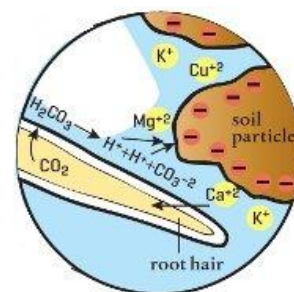
Weathering the Storm: Horticulture Management in Brooklyn Bridge Park in the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy by Rebecca McMackin

Two months ago, Hurricane Sandy devastated coastal regions of New York and New Jersey. Much of [Brooklyn Bridge Park \(BBP\)](#) was underwater for four hours. Sandy was the second "100 year storm" in two years, and researchers at MIT say we should now expect such extreme weather events every three to twenty years. In light of our changing climate, robust ecological landscapes must now comprise more than native plants, sustainable construction, and organic management practices. Landscapes should be created with rising waters and extreme weather events in mind, and management practices for storms and floods should be researched, established, tested, and shared. [Read the article](#)



Think the Soil Food Web Is Amazing? Take a Look at Plant Cellular Biology by Jeff Lowenfels

Most books on growing plants contain an explanation of the soil Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC). This is one measurement of the ability of soil to hold nutrients. We've all seen the diagram: a root with positively charged hydrogen ions on its surface comes into contact with clay and organic particles that are covered with positively charged nutrient ions. The hydrogen ions swap places with the nutrient ions and the plant root gets its nutrients. [Read the article](#)



The Buzz on Biodiversity by Michael Phillips

Permaculture people speak of two classes of plants to encourage within any gardenscape. Recognizing the role of *dynamic accumulators* and *beneficial accumulators* helps us bring specific plant interactions into focus. Companion planting is far more than an old wives' tale. All plants contribute to the ecosystem, even those we mistakenly call weeds. [Read the article](#)

This excerpt is reprinted with the author's permission from *The Holistic Orchard*, Chelsea Green Publishing (January 10, 2012).



In Defense of Native Bees by Karen Lyness LeBlanc

Native bees are not receiving the attention honeybees have been given recently, but they are also experiencing a significant population decline. In places where there is significant natural habitat, native bees may provide all of the pollination needed for some crops. So maintaining habitat for native bees has economic, as well as ecological benefits. [Read the article](#)



Conference Eco-Marketplace Goes Virtual

ELA is taking more steps to reduce the organization's overall footprint. Rather than staffing the traditional trade show floor of years past, Exhibitors at ELA's 19th Conference will be taking to the internet this year. Now, instead of a more limited physical presence over two days, the products and expertise of the **Virtual Eco-Marketplace** exhibitors will be in front of the full ELA audience throughout the year. The Virtual Eco-Marketplace puts exhibitors at the center of an information hub where ELA Newsletter readers and website surfers will be able to access company information, brochures, catalogs, videos, and special promotions at the click of the mouse. Concerned that you'll miss out on a chance to talk to your favorite vendor about the latest in permeable pavers or soil amendments? Don't be! Many Eco-Marketplace exhibitors will be at the Conference, but instead of being tied to a booth, they'll be taking advantage of the Conference education, networking, and talking to **you**. Some exhibitors will still have their own space at the Conference; others will take advantage of a new ELA Conference Literature Table where Conference attendees can locate information about all the ecological products and services they've always found at the Eco-Marketplace.

For additional information about the Virtual Eco-Marketplace, contact Trevor Smith at trevscape@comcast.net or 617-308 7063.

Welcome to Our New Members

Thank you to everyone who quickly clicked to renew their ELA membership. ELA appreciates your continued support. We also, welcome many new members. We're glad you've joined and look forward to seeing you at ELA events or online this year. If you've been a member in the past and haven't yet renewed your membership, we hope you'll do so now.

Welcome to the following members who joined ELA over the last few weeks:

Thomas Bienkiewicz, [Environmental Landscape Consultants, LLC](#)
Kristen Briggs, [Plantscapes, Inc](#)
Marechal Brown, [NYC Department of Parks and Recreation](#)
Mark Brownlee, [American Native Nursery](#)

Kim David, [David Brothers Landscape Services](#)
Gina Frederick, [Vanderlely Landscaping](#)
Bobbi J. Geise, [Learning By Nature](#)
Jacalyn Gould, [Jacalyn Gould Landscape Design](#)
Christina Hutton, [Bartlett Gardens](#)
Nancy A. Jones, Nancy's Garden Services
Colleen Kohl, [Horsley Witten Group, Inc](#)
Walker Korby, Earthworks
Paula Kovecses, [T.W.I.G. Horticultural Consulting LLC](#)
Karen Longeteig, [Going Native Gardens](#)
Martha Moore, Martha S. Moore, Landscape Architect
Michele Mutschler, Espalier Fine Gardens
Melanie Neuman, [Fiori Secchi Gardens](#)
Justin Nichols
Dianna Pacella
Daniel Peterson, [HabAdapt Landscape Design](#)
Denise Rico, [Terra Design Landscapes](#)
Mary Sper
Melissa Spurr
Tom Stenger, Stenger Outdoor Design
Susan Young

Gleanings

You'll want to check out the New England Wildflower Society's slate of winter courses being held all around New England over the next few months. ELA is pleased to be a cosponsor for several courses. You can find the complete catalog at [New England Wild Flower Society](#).



Tom Benjamin teaches the online course [Sustainable Site Planning and Design](#) from January 22 - May 1, 2013, through UMass Amherst. The course is one of five required for the [Certificate in Sustainable Food and Farming](#).



The Trustees of Reservation reluctantly closed down the Conservation Common on December 19, 2012. Launched in 2007, the Common was an early online meeting place for professionals and volunteers working to protect and care for many of the special places in Massachusetts. In its letter to the community, the Trustees included a list of excellent resources for those in the conservation community and for anyone seeking good information about protecting and enjoying our local resources. [Click here for the list](#).

Events

[Invasive Forest Pests on the Horizon](#) - UVM Winter Webinar; January 16, 5-6pm.
[Connecticut Tree Protection Association Annual Meeting](#); Plantsville, CT; January 17, 8:00am-3:45pm.
[Taking on Invasives: Battles Won and Lost, and Their Lessons](#); Thoreau Institute, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA; January 22, 7pm.
[CGKA 2013 Turf and Landscape Conference](#); Cromwell, CT, January 22 & 23.
[Winter Lawn Care Conference](#); Sturbridge, MA; January 23, 7:00am-3:30pm.
[Reversing Global Warming while Meeting Human Needs: An Urgently Needed Land-Based Option](#); The Fletcher School, 160 Packard Ave, Medford, MA; January 25, 2-4pm.
[Information Session at the Conway School](#); Conway, MA; February 2, 10:00am-3:00pm.

Managing Invasives at Home and Around Town; Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; February 6, 7pm.
GreenWorks/VNLA Winter Meeting and Trade Show; University of Vermont, Burlington, VT; February 13, 3am-4:30pm.
New England Grows; Boston Convention Center, Boston, MA; February 6-8. ELA and EPA cohost reception at NE Grows, February 7, 1 - 2 pm.
SNEC Erosion & Sediment Control - Winter Meeting; Northeast Utilities Auditorium, Berlin, CT; February 15, 8am-3pm.
Vermont Tree Laws: A Refresher - UVM Winter Webinar; February 20, 5-6pm
Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve's 13th annual Land Ethics Symposium: Creative Approaches for Ecological Landscaping; Sheraton Bucks County Hotel, Langhorne, PA; February 21, 8:00am-4:00pm.
Agriculture & Food Conference of Southeastern Massachusetts; Bristol County Agricultural HS, 135 Center St, Dighton, MA; February 23, 8:30am-5:00pm.
MELA Conference 2013; Grayslake, IL; February 28, 7:30am-6:00pm.
5th Annual Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium; Cinemapolis, Ithaca, NY; March 1 and 2.
2013 Vermont Flower Show - The Road Not Taken: Save the Date; Essex Junction, VT; March 1-3.
Meadowscaping in Urban & Suburban Spaces; Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; March 6, 7pm.

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We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter.

We welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net.

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor