



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

March

It's easy to be enthusiastic about the growing season ahead after hearing the talks and feeling the energy at ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace last month. It was an enthusiastic gathering. Thanks are due everyone who supported the Conference by registering, purchasing books and tees, and sharing Conference information with friends and co-workers. Special thanks to the many volunteers who supported the Conference with their time.

This issue of the Newsletter follows up on a couple of recent ELA events. A first-time Conference attendee provides a review of a Conference session. We also have follow-up articles from ELA's early January roundtable on irrigation at which Jeff Bowman and John Swarigen shared great insights into successfully working with irrigation contractors; here they have written down some of their observations and recommendations. We also have an article on greywater from drought-stricken California, as well as a request for your photos to accompany an update of ELA's publication, [Discover Ecological Landscaping](#). Look for the details below; perhaps one of your projects will be featured! *MS*



Drip It!

by John Swarigen

We've heard it all before, haven't we? Drip lines clog and stop working. They take too much time and labor to install. It's harder to complete bed maintenance around drip irrigation. Overhead watering is easier and is just as good for the plants.

Irrigation contractors and landscapers can come up with lots of reasons not to install drip irrigation. In reality, however, for trees, shrubs, and all other plants in beds, low-volume drip irrigation is hands-down the best way to provide water to them. [Read the article.](#)



Greywater Made Clear: The Basics

by Ken Foster

It is called "greywater" for a reason, and whether you spell it greywater or graywater obviously it is not one of those black and white solutions to water conservation. It's, well...murky. Regardless of the spelling it's one of the best strategies for maximizing your water economy. The new word 'watery' refers to all the energy we spend making water potable and transporting around. In the State of California 20% of our overall energy is used for this purpose. So using greywater eases your water budget, reduces watery, and conserves the water itself when you keep it on your site. [Read the article](#)



Landscape Water Sourcing for Irrigation

by Jeff Bowman

Here in the northeastern United States, there are three commonly used sources of water for irrigation. These are domestic (city) water, surface water, and groundwater. Each of these sources has its own distinct set of issues related to its use in supplying landscape irrigation systems. The purpose of this article is to outline the issues that might be experienced using each source in order to help readers better determine the most suitable water source for any particular irrigation system. [Read the article](#)



A Lesson on Connections: "Enhancing Ecosystem Dynamics for Trees" with Michael Phillips

by Emma Vautour

As a student of ecology and an aspiring ecological landscaper, it was a privilege to attend the 2014 ELA conference and learn from many of the leading figures in the field. The conference rooms seemed to reverberate with the buzz of so many excited earth-enthusiasts, communally appreciating what fascinates them most. The general liveliness was underpinned by finely-tuned, intellectual discussions of innovative techniques and new understanding. [Read the article](#)



Share Your Project in ELA's Ecological Landscaping Video

Discover Ecological Landscaping is a concise introduction to the concepts and practices at the root of landscapes managed with an eye to long-term health and sustainability. Originally published in 2005, ELA's introductory guide was first available as a printed booklet, and more recently as a pdf for self-printing from the ELA website. Share your project photos to help ELA turn *Discover Ecological Landscaping* into a slide presentation for broader educational reach.

[Read the article](#)

Gleanings

Proposals Due

[Connecting for Change](#) 2014, a Bioneers Network Event in association with the Marion Institute, is seeking proposals for 90-minute workshops for their annual three-day gathering. To be held in downtown New Bedford, MA, from October 24-26, Bioneers draws a diverse audience interested in creating deep and positive change in their communities. The event summons environmental, industry, and social justice innovators to focus on food and farming, health and healing, green business, indigenous knowledge, environmental and social justice, women and youth empowerment, spirituality, and sustainability, all working to catalyze a movement to heal our world. [Click here](#) to submit a proposal; the deadline is March 28.



Support Monarch Butterflies: Grow Milkweed

After a summer that saw a dramatic decline in Monarch butterflies in North America, consider increasing your use of native milkweed this year. In the past, the Xerces Society has partnered with the native seed industry to develop Xerces-approved wildflower seed mixes, including milkweed, that will provide foraging and nesting resources for pollinators. They now have sources that provide a variety of native milkweed seed suitable for various regions of the US. The Xerces goal is to see 100 million milkweed seeds planted across the country within the next two years. Use the [Milkweed Seed Finder](#) to locate a grower in your region who is producing seed appropriate for your area. Or look for a grower offering native species.



Stormwater Bumpouts: Calmer Community, Cleaner Creek

StormwaterPA shares video of a stormwater project in Philadelphia that uses "storm water bumpouts" to manage runoff while also helping to calm traffic:

<http://www.stormwaterpa.org/stormwater-bumpouts>.



The Landscape Message Is Back

UMass has resumed posting their informative messages pertaining to the current growing season. You may find the first message of 2014 at: <http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/message/lm-1-2014>.



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

March 12-16 - [Boston Flower and Garden Show](#); Boston, MA.

March 16 - [The Vineyard Habitat Network](#); Brewster, MA; 2:00-3:00pm.

March 17 - [Green Infrastructure Design](#); Holyoke, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

March 18 - [State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.

March 19 - [Improving Water Quality & Quantity with Pervious Pavement](#), Webinar; 2:00-3:30pmEDT.

March 19 - **ELA EVENT** → [Deer-Resistant Landscaping](#); Whatley, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.

March 19-April 9 - [Stewardship of the Urban Landscape \(SOUL\) Tree Steward Program](#); various locations on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

March 20 - [Research, Case Studies & Anecdotes: The Latest in Wetland Science](#); Southbury, CT; 8:15am-3:50pm.

March 20 - [Perennial Plant Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-4:00pm.

March 22 - [Mass Land Conservation Conference](#): Healthy Land - Healthy Communities; Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.

March 22 - [Gowanus Canal Conservancy Clean and Green Program begins](#) at sites throughout Brooklyn, NY.

March 23 - [Permaculture Design Certification](#); Waitsfield, VT.

March 25 - [Pollinator Conservation Short Course](#); Jaffrey, NH; 9:00am-4:00pm.

March 27 - [NOFA Organic Lawn Care Certificate Course](#); New London, CT; 8:00am-5:00pm.

March 29 & 30 - [Project Native Film Festival](#); Barrington, MA.

March 29 - [Sustainable Living Expo](#); Middlebury, VT; 9:00am-4:00pm (April 12 snow date).

April 2 - [American Oaks: A Genus to Love](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

April 2 - [How to Plan for Clean Water in Real Estate Development](#); New Bedford, MA; 8:30am-2:00pm/

April 3 - [Spring Kickoff for Landscapers: UMass Extension Landscape Education Day](#); UMass Cranberry Station; 10:00am.

April 5 - [Earth Night](#); Environmental League of MA; Boston, MA; 7:00-10:00pm.

April 6 - **ELA EVENT**→Tick-borne Disease: Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment; Framingham, MA; 1:00-3:30pm.

April 8 - The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification; Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:00pm.

April 10 - **ELA EVENT**→Harvard Forest: Reflecting on the Past, Researching the Future; Petersham, MA; 11:00am-2:00pm.

April 12 - SEMPBA Regional Conservation Forum; Falmouth, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.

April 13 - American Oaks: A Genus to Love; Brewster, MA; 2:00pm.

April 16 - Building Techniques and Technologies that Protect Clean Water; Marion, MA; 8:30am-2:00pm.

April 19 - Northern Gardening Symposium; Randolph, VT; 9:00am-3:00pm.

April 22-23 - Raising the Bar: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning and Design Workshop; So. Burlington, VT.

April 25-26 - Designing for Success: Ecological Restoration in Times of Change; Amherst, MA.

April 30 - Keeping Clean Water in Your Community; East Wareham, MA; 8:30am-2:00pm.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter. We welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net.

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