



ecological
landscaping
association

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

February

We are looking forward to seeing you at [ELA's 19th Conference](#) out in Springfield on February 27 or 28. If you haven't yet registered for the Conference, note that **early discounts end Tuesday (2/19)**, so [register soon](#). You won't want to miss this year's lineup of speakers and exhibitors.

To whet your appetite, this month's Newsletter features Conference speakers and exhibitors. We have a review of Eric Toensmeier's recently published book, *Paradise Lot: Two Plant Geeks, One-Tenth of an Acre and the Making of an Edible Garden Oasis in the City*. Toensmeier, recently interviewed by the [NY Times](#), speaks in the Local Food, Local Landscapes Workshop on Wednesday morning to be followed by a booksigning. Three Conference speakers have contributed articles to this month's Newsletter. Dr. Geoffrey Kuter and Linda Miyoshi focus in on soil and Kathleen Salisbury offers a first glimpse at Duke Farms.

Two sponsors, Organic Plant Magic and OESCO, and exhibitor Fourth Generation, all give previews of the products they'll be sharing at the Conference this year. [Organic Plant Magic](#) is the generous sponsor of Wednesday's Keynote Dinner with Jeff Lowenfels. The company has a long- (add hyphen) term connection with both Jeff and ELA; it's exciting that those connections converged this year. [Compostwerks!](#), [The Conway School](#), [Groundscapes Express](#), and [OESCO](#) are all sponsoring session speakers. We thank all the sponsors for their support and draw your attention to the full list, below, of Conference exhibitors.

On a final note, if you have WordPress skills you wouldn't mind sharing with ELA, please contact [Penny Lewis](#). See you at the Conference. *MS*

Selecting and Using Composts for Sustainable Landscaping by Geoffrey Kuter, Ph.D.

Composts are highly versatile and valuable products with multiple uses in sustainable landscaping. When using composts made from waste materials, carbon and nutrients are recycled to the soil and the generation of methane, a potent greenhouse gas and by product from landfill disposal, is reduced. [Read the article.](#)



Respecting the Soil Food Web by Linda Miyoshi

In nature, a symbiotic relationship exists between soil microbes and plants. All plants depend on microorganisms to provide all nutrients needed for their growth, access water, ward off harmful pathogens and pests, and break down toxins in the soil that could inhibit growth. The microbes in the soil benefit from the exudates released from the plant. This relationship creates a dynamic, interdependent living system. [Read the article.](#)



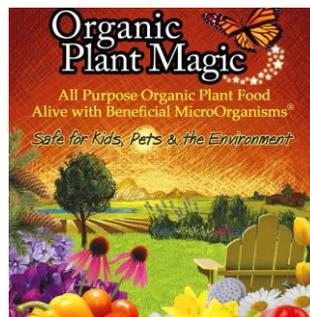
Late Blooms in the Landscape by Kathleen Salisbury

As you spend the winter planning additions for your landscape and troll through the countless catalogs you have been getting in the mail, it is easy to think about the colorful spring blooms that put an end to the dull winter months. However, as you plan, don't forget the late blooming flowers! Order them as well to ensure a landscape that is not only interesting in all seasons but offers food for wildlife as they prepare for migration or the lean winter months. [Read the article.](#)



Working Magic on Plants by Kevin Richardson

Do you know that the same microbes in a compost pile that break down food scraps, lawn clippings, leaves, paper, and wood back into soil are also responsible for these same mechanisms in nature that provide all the food and protection plants need? Nobody is out spraying the forest or prairie with chemical fertilizer or pesticides, and they are doing just fine! [Read the article.](#)



Meeting the Challenge of Protecting Edibles by Michael Genthner

Growing fruit and vegetables can be a satisfying and rewarding pursuit. First of all, there is the satisfaction of cultivating delicious and wholesome food. Second, there are the aesthetic rewards: The sheer beauty of the plants themselves - think of a cluster of fiery blueberry bushes in fall or an apple or peach orchard in full bloom - can enrich our surroundings. [Read the article.](#)



What's New at Fourth Generation? by R.P. Sokol

The 2013 winter trade shows have brought some pleasant surprises to us at [Fourth Generation Nursery](#). The first is that many in the Landscape industry are beginning to "get it;" rainwater harvesting is finally starting to catch on. And second, an increasing number of professionals recognize that "Storm Water Management" means more than diverting runoff onto the neighbor's property. [Read the article.](#)



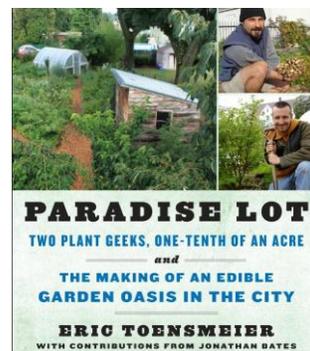
Book Review

Paradise Lot: Two Plant Geeks, One-Tenth of an Acre and the Making of an Edible Garden Oasis in the City

Written by Eric Toensmeier, with contributions from Jonathan Bates
Published by Chelsea Press, 2013

Reviewed by Penny Lewis

Like a well-designed polyculture, Eric Toensmeier and Jonathan Bates have packed a lot of valuable and interesting information into a small space. And unlike many plant books, this one truly is a *page-*



turner. [Read the review.](#)

2013 ELA Conference Exhibitors

Trevor Smith, ELA Vice-President and Conference Exhibitor Coordinator, has sold out the newly-configured floor for the 2013 Conference. Once again Trevor has gathered a diverse group of exhibitors for Conference attendees to meet, learn from, and probe for great tips.

The 2013 Exhibitor Lineup

[Aquascapes Unlimited, Inc](#)

[Colonial Seed Company](#)

[Compostwerks!+](#)

[The Conway School](#) + *

[Duke Farms*](#)

[Earth and Turf](#)

[Landscapes Express](#) +

[Filtrex](#)

[Fourth Generation Nursery](#)

[Guardair Corp.](#)

[Herbanatur](#)

[ICT Organics](#)

[LandEscapes](#)

[Neptune's Harvest](#)

[OESCO, Inc.+](#)

[Organic Plant Magic+](#)

[Planters' Choice](#)

[Project Native*](#)

[RainStay](#)

[Read Custom Soils](#)

[Rhode Island Natural History Survey*](#)

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Gleanings

We Have a Winner!

Congratulations to Art Presson Grounds Manager at Green-Wood Cemetery in New York for winning the ELA raffle at New England Grows. Art won one day at the ELA Conference free of charge and will be able to take advantage of all the education sessions, delectable breakfast and lunch, Jazz Social Hour with great networking opportunities, ELA bookstore with a new assortment of must-have titles, and 40-item Native Plant Challenge. Enjoy your day!



Phone in Your Rain Garden

University of Connecticut is offering a smartphone application for iPhones that provides help in installing rain gardens. The app and associated webinar (to air on February 20) aim to reach homeowners, landscape professions, municipal staff, and others interested in rain garden installation. The webinar provides a live demonstration of the app, which features a searchable plant database and tools that will help you properly site, size, and install your rain garden. Don't have a smartphone? The webinar will also direct you to the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) and Connecticut Fund for the Environment's [website](#). To download the app before the webinar, [click here](#). To register for the webinar, [click here](#).



\$3 Million in Grants

Last month, the Rockefeller Foundation announced a commitment of \$3 million dollars through its RE.invest Initiative, a public-private partnership aimed at helping cities finance and build resilient, integrated urban storm water infrastructure systems. Through a national application process, RE.invest will select up to eight U.S. cities to receive seed funding and technical support for projects that develop sustainable infrastructure, for example by replacing concrete with porous pavement, restoring creeks and wetlands, an increasing tree cover. Representatives from interested cities should email reinvest@cdotsdevelopment.com for more information on the application process and to submit an expression of interest.



Arnold Arboretum Job Opportunity

There's a great part-time employment opportunity as a Visitor Education Assistant available at Arnold Arboretum. [Check out the job description](#) or contact [Julie Warsowe](#).



I-Park Foundation Announces 2013 Landscape/Garden Design Residency Program

Applications are due April 1, 2013, for the I-Park Foundation, Inc. 2013 multi-disciplinary artists-in-residence program. Landscape/garden designers and landscape architects can expand and enrich their creative practice in a retreat-like, collegial setting in East Haddam, CT - in the company of visual artists, composers, writers and, beginning in 2013, architects. Self-directed residencies will be offered from May through November 2013. Most residencies are four weeks in duration, though split (2-week) sessions can occasionally be arranged to accommodate busy career schedules.

There is also a special [Environmental Art Program](#) in 2013 (residency and exhibition) for which landscape/garden design proposals are being solicited. International applicants are welcome. To defray the cost of travel, four \$750.00 grants, to be distributed among all the disciplines, will be awarded to non-North American participants whose work is held in particularly high regard by the Grant Committee. Program details, application form and comprehensive FAQ are available [online](#). For more information, contact Amanda Baker, Residency Program Manager, by e-mail: iparkapplications@gmail.com or by phone: 860-873-2468.

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Events to Note (listed in local time)

[Boston Flower & Garden Show](#); Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA; March 13-17.
 Look for the winner of ELA's Environmental Vision Award.

UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research - [Build a Rain Garden Webinar](#); February 20, 2-3pm.

[Vermont Tree Laws: A Refresher](#) - UVM SOUL Tree Steward Webinar; February 20, 5:00-6:00pm.

[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.

[Selected Topics for Tree Care Professionals](#); Doubletree Hotel, Milford, MA; February 21, 8:30am-12:30pm.

[Agriculture & Food Conference of Southeastern Massachusetts](#): Bristol County Agricultural HS, 135 Center St, Dighton, MA; February 23, 8:30am-5:00pm.

[Biodiversity 2013: Crisis and Opportunity](#); Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Bldg, Boston, MA; February 25, 7-8:30pm.

[ELA 19th Annual Conference](#); Springfield, MA; February 27 & 28.

[MELA Conference 2013](#); Grayslake, IL; February 28, 7:30am-6:00pm.

[Made for Walking: Density and Neighborhood Form](#); Lincoln House, 113 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA; February 28, 4:00pm.

[Bioengineering: Earth-focused Design](#); Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Bldg, Boston, MA; February 28, 6pm.

[2013 Vermont Flower Show - The Road Not Taken](#): Save the Date; Essex Junction, VT; March 1-3.

[CT NOFA Winter Conference](#); Wilton HS, 395 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT; March 2, 8:30am.

[MACC's Annual Environmental Conference](#); Worcester, MA; March 2, 8:00am-5:00pm.

[Meadowscaping in Urban and Suburban Spaces](#); Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; March 6, 7:00pm.

[University of Connecticut Perennial Plant Conference](#); Storrs, CT; March 21, 8:00am-4:00pm.

[Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting](#); Crowne Plaza Hotel, Southbury, CT; March 21, 8:15am-4:30pm.

[University of Connecticut 2013 Garden Conference](#); Storrs, CT; March 22, 8:00am-4:30pm.

[2013 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; March 23, 8:00am-4:00pm.

[Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Milford, MA; March 26, 9:00am-3:00pm.

[Lakeshore Neighborhood Plant Exchange](#); 3811 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland, CA; March 30, noon-4:00pm.

[Protecting Your Valuable Trees](#); Garden the Woods, Framingham, MA; April 2, 10:00am-noon.

[Landscape Design with the Climate in Mind](#); Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; April 3, 7:00pm.

[Watergardens: The Voice of Our Landscape](#); Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA; April 4, 6:30-8:30pm.

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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

