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## August

### **Learning from the Land: A Permaculture Design Provides an Outdoor Classroom for the Conway School**

by Mollie Babize



On a south-facing hillside in Conway, Massachusetts, an eight-acre experimental landscape and permaculture classroom is evolving. In its third year, this outdoor "learning lab" sits in close proximity to the Conway School, a ten-month graduate program in sustainable landscape planning and design. Jono Neiger, principal of Regenerative Design Group of Greenfield and the primary designer/"editor" of this landscape, also teaches at Conway and uses this property to illustrate the principles of regenerative design to his students. [Read full article.](#)



### **Installation and Early Maintenance of an Edible Garden**

by Tricia Diggins

The first plantings of the Edible Ecosystem Demonstration Garden at Wellesley College Botanic Gardens (WCBG) went into the ground this spring, beginning the multi-year implementation of a garden designed by Dave Jacke of Dynamics Ecological Design and Keith Zaltzberg of Regenerative Design Group. The garden "is designed to explore the question, 'How well can we design a plant community that mimics the properties, principles, patterns and processes of natural ecosystems but produces food and other products useful for humans?'" [Read full article.](#)

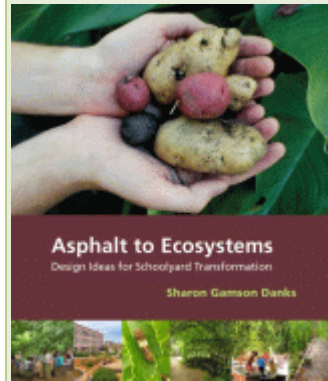
## WCBG's Edible Ecosystem Demonstration Garden: A Cutting Edge Exploration in Ecology and Botany

by Dave Jacke and Keith Zaltzberg

How well can we design a plant community that mimics the properties, principles, patterns and processes of natural ecosystems but produces food and other products useful for humans? The desire to explore this question lies at the heart of Wellesley College Botanic Gardens' (WCBG) newest project: the Edible Ecosystem Demonstration Garden. The first of its kind at a college botanic garden, the Edibles Garden represents a major new thrust in ecological research: experiments in regenerative, whole ecosystem design. This landscape, designed with the assistance of a number of students and the support of many academic departments, mimics the forest in structure and function while providing diverse yields of food, habitat, and research opportunities. [Read full article.](#)



*This article is reprinted with the authors' permission from the Spring 2011 issue of the Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture (WCFH) Newsletter. Photos courtesy of WCFH.*



### Book Review: Asphalt to Ecosystems Asphalt to Ecosystems: Design Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation

Written by Sharon Gamson Danks;  
Published by New Village Press  
Reviewed by Trevor Smith

The transformation of our nation's asphalt and turf schoolyards into thriving educational and inspirational Green Space sounds like the ultimate "kumbaya" notion. A notion that one might assume would surely suffocate under mountains of red tape. Asphalt to Ecosystems proves that this idea is more than a fuzzy feeling and can become a tangible reality. [Read full article.](#)

### All Things Eco: 2011 Annual Meeting Expands ELA's Education Mission

by Maureen Sundberg

Eco-tours, Eco-Roundtables, Eco-Workshops, Eco-Conference, Eco-Marketplace.... ELA's annual meeting recapped the many and varied ecological initiatives of the past year at its annual meeting on July 26. Held at New England Wildflower Society's Education Center

in Framingham, MA, the event capped the 19th year of providing exceptional educational events for landscaping professionals and the general public. [Read full article.](#)

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

We welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net).

Penny Lewis, Executive Director  
Ecological Landscaping Association