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## December

### 2012 Membership Drive Is Happening Now!

ELA's membership year ends on December 31. If you were an ELA member in 2011 and haven't yet renewed your membership, I hope you'll renew today. If you enjoy the ELA Newsletter or have attended one of ELA's many Eco-tours or another ELA event held this year and have not yet become a member, please join us now! ELA relies on the support of members to provide a great variety of regional educational opportunities. Your membership is vital to continuing that work.

### Small Residential Rainwater Harvesting Project: A Hands-on Community Eco-Workshop by Mary Flodin

ELA sponsored a series of three hands-on eco-workshops in Santa Cruz, CA, during the fall of 2011; each presented by a different local landscaper: *Native Plants: The Low Tech Landscape Water Conserving Solution*, Darrin Miller of [Central Coast Wild](#); *Greywater Clarified*, Ken Foster of [Terranova](#); and *Rainwater Harvesting*, Golden Love of [Love's Gardens](#). [[click to continue...](#)]



### What is Sustainability? by Ronald G. Dodson

To my way of thinking, sustainability is an individual and personal ethic that informs, guides, and inspires actions in daily, personal, and professional life. Practicing the tenets of sustainability is motivated by an individual's acceptance of a responsibility to, quite simply, make decisions that leaves our world better able to meet present and future needs (economic, environmental, and social) of individuals and society. [[click to continue...](#)]

**Product Review:  
The Muck Truck  
Reviewed by Trevor Smith**

*Muck Truck will be exhibiting at the 2012 ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace on March 8 in Springfield, MA.*



For the past few years I have been checking out the Muck Truck at the ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace. If you are unfamiliar with the Muck Truck, it is a motorized wheelbarrow. Its 4-stroke Honda motor powers four rugged earth gripping tires carrying whatever you decide to put in it. I contemplated buying one and kept wondering how much of a difference having one would make in the course of my season. [\[click to continue...\]](#)



**Common Buckthorn: An Exotic Invasive Plant Fact Sheet  
by Bruce Wenning**

Common or European buckthorn originates from Europe and Asia.

This species, like many other exotic invasive plants, escaped from home and institutional gardens, specific wildlife enhancement programs, and private and commercial planting projects. Common buckthorn is widespread in most of New England westward to the north central states. [\[click to continue...\]](#)

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**December Gleanings:**

CNLA-CGGA Winter Symposium. Manchester Community College, CT; January 4 & 5, 2012.

GEM (Growth, Effectiveness, Management) Horticultural Business Seminar, hosted by Frank Crandall. Kettle Pond Visitor's Center, Charlestown, RI; January 18 & 19, 2012. Snow date January 20. [frankcrandall3@gmail.com](mailto:frankcrandall3@gmail.com)

NJ Plants - Nursery, Landscape & Garden Center Trade Show. NJ Convention Center, Edison, NJ, January 24 & 25, 2012.

Third Rhode Island Compost Conference and Trade Show, organized by the Environment Council of Rhode Island's Compost Initiative, ECORI.org, and the Greater Providence Urban Agriculture Task Force. Hope Artiste Village, Main St, Pawtucket, RI; Monday, February 27, 2012, 9:00am - 3:00pm.

No time to stop the deluge of catalogs and unwanted mail in your mailbox? Check out Catalog Choice.

The 2012 UMass Extension Green Directory is available online. This **free** comprehensive guide contains a wealth of resource information.

The UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program has a redesigned website at: <http://www.UMassGreenInfo.org>.

Learn more about LEED; explore the list of webinars available through USGBC at <http://www.usgbcma.org/events>.

Go to [ELA's Event's Page](#) for additional postings.

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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