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biodiversity • conservation • lawn care
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water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

April 2012

The persistent dry conditions this past winter and spring in the Northeast have many of us here contemplating a dry growing season ahead - and thinking about water, the focus of this issue of the Newsletter. In addition to considering options to save and reuse water in the landscape, you may also want to calculate your direct and indirect water usage using a tool at [Water Footprint](#).
M.S., Editor



Water: A Treasure to Be Captured by Clémence Corriveau

Water sustains and beckons us all: plants, animals, insects, and people. Yet, it can create challenges when it limits usable space or collects in the wrong location. By redirecting and reusing rainwater and by replanting to accommodate wetlands, you can turn problem garden areas into beautiful havens. Here are some examples of collecting rainwater in rain barrels and creating rain gardens and ponds to capture the treasure that water brings to the

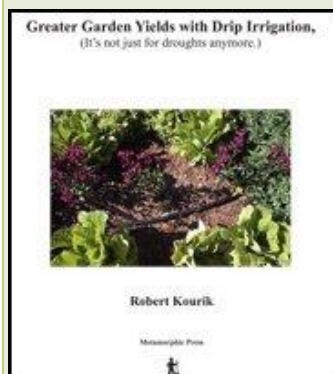
landscape. [\[click to continue\]](#)

Rainwater Harvesting: A Simple Approach to Conservation

This article first appeared in the Summer 2005 issue of the Ecological Landscaper; Paul has provided an update for 2012.

by Paul Kwiatkowski

In this age of reckless consumption of resources and pollution without shame, conservation is vital. The numbers of individuals and businesses that embrace conservation are growing, but America is still lagging in shifting to cleaner, more efficient enterprises, such as hybrid automobiles, wind power, and green roofs. Individuals must take it upon themselves to implement conservation strategies in their neighborhoods, communities, and places of work. [\[click to continue...\]](#)



Ebook Review: Greater Garden Yields with Drip Irrigation

Written by Robert Kourik

Published by Metamorphic Press, 2012

Reviewed by Brett Graf

Robert Kourik's ebook, Greater Garden Yields with Drip Irrigation, provides strong evidence that drip irrigation is not just for low-water landscapes. It contains information from numerous studies that show that using proper drip irrigation strategies can improve the health and production of garden plants and the soil they live in. [\[click to continue\]](#)

A Tale of Three Garden Shows: Progress?

This excerpt from a longer article is reprinted by permission of the author and Native Plants & Wildlife Gardens and appears in full at <http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/a-tale-of-three-garden-shows-progress/>.

by Sue Reed

I have recently attended three very different garden shows that together reveal a big shift in our society's gardening attitudes and interests. Yet I also found that a troublesome old belief - the idea that people's garden dreams are more important than the health of the natural world - not only persists but is being re-invigorated in a surprising new way. ... [\[click to continue\]](#)



Measuring Progress: Permaculture Responds by Ben Falk

Sue Reed's article, "A Talk of Three Garden Shows: Progress?" oversimplifies an important and complex issue. Since Sue did not attend my talks at the ELA Conference, I will offer some of the perspectives we work from when practicing permaculture. When referring to permaculture she states: "Like all the worst systems of agriculture and horticulture in our past, this new approach still places human wishes and desires (often called "needs") in the center of the equation." Actually, permaculture does the opposite of most agricultural systems as it facilitates the development of diverse, highly complex, and resilient ecosystems in which human needs such as food, water, and shelter are provided for locally. [\[click to continue\]](#)

Winged Euonymus: An Exotic Invasive Plant Fact Sheet by Bruce Wenning

Common Names: winged euonymus; burning bush; winged burning bush; winged spindle-tree.

Plant Taxonomy: Family Celastraceae. Genus Euonymus. Species *Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb.

Regulations: The importation, distribution, trade, and sale of winged euonymus have been banned in Massachusetts effective January 1, 2009 (Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List website, 2012).

General Description: Winged euonymus is originally from northeastern Asia including most of the provinces of China (Zheng et al, 2006). It was introduced into the United States during the 1860s and was quickly recognized as being a desirable horticultural specimen exhibiting an attractive growth habit, corky-winged stems, autumn leaves of brilliant red color, and attractive fruits (Dirr, 1998; Ebinger, 1996). [\[click to continue\]](#)



April Gleanings

[A Natural History of Spring Wildflowers](#). Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY: April 17, 1pm-2pm.

[Sustainable Communities & Campuses Conference](#). UMass Boston, Campus Conference Center; April 20-21.

[A Day of Garden Skills Workshops for the School Garden](#), MA Agriculture in the Classroom. Tranquil Lake Nursery, Rehoboth, MA; April 21, 9am-4pm.

[Wetland Restoration & Construction Workshop](#). Safford, AZ; April 24-25.

[National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day](#). At sites throughout the country; April 28. Use the link to find a local disposal site; help keep medications out of the water.

[Rachel Carson Open House](#). Silver Spring, MD; April 28, noon -4pm.

13th Annual Wildflower and Native Plant Sale. Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY; April 28, 10am-12noon.

Bay Friendly Garden Tour. Alameda County, CA; April 29.

Rain Garden Design, Yestermorrow Design Build School. Warren, VT; May 11 - May 13

22nd Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference, NEIWPC. Sheraton Hotel, Portsmouth, NH; May 15-16.

Hands-on Wetland Creation Workshop. Mass Audubon May 22-24, 345 Bone Hill Rd, Barnstable, MA

The UMass Amherst, Center for Agriculture website offers the latest information on Winter Moth.

Design Help for Water-saving Gardens

The University of Rhode Island Outreach Center has a new publication aimed at helping landscaping professionals and homeowners design with water savings in mind. Native Plant Site Solutions for Backyard Habitat is a "how-to" guide for designers and homeowners who are interested in enhancing wildlife habitat value in urban and suburban areas. The booklet documents native plant collections that can replace impervious surfaces and lawns, thus allowing stormwater runoff from residential properties to create wildlife habitat instead of following into waste water systems.

The University of Rhode Island Outreach Center has other excellent resources available on their website.



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

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor