



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

November

November is the month for catching up and tidying up after a busy growing season, and it's also a good time for reflection. Yesterday ELA held a daylong Seasons' End Summit in Ashland, MA. This was the perfect venue for talking over the successes and failures of the season just past, and shaping a vision for the season ahead. Couldn't make it to the Summit? This month's Newsletter also takes a look at the growing season that's winding down. Darcy Paige shares a personal account of the 2012 growing and designing year, and Trevor Smith documents his dive into natural swimming ponds. We revisit a favorite Eco-tour, The Rose Kennedy Greenway, and add to the invasives Fact Sheets.

And as we move ever closer to the end of the year, remember to put renewing you ELA membership at the top of your to-do list. ELA memberships are up for renewal on January 1; look for a renewal notice in your inbox in early December. Want to get a head start? [Renew now.](#)

Finally, in the spirit of this season of thanks giving, ELA would like to thank the generosity of donors during the Annual Appeal. If you have not yet donated, it's never too late. [Make a donation](#) of any size, and it will be put to work immediately in support of ELA's educational programs. We look forward to adding your name to our list of supporters:

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Laurel Garden Design: Notes from the 2012 Season - Horticulture by Darcy Paige

I've been designing, installing, and tending gardens for 16 years. About two-thirds of my time each season is spent in gardens, with my trusty, dusty team. Each season has its own quirks and personality; like cream rising to the top of the milk, rich images separate themselves out from the jumbled memory of the season's seemingly endless tasks. [Read the article](#)



**Laurel Garden Design:
Notes from the 2012 Season - Design**
by Darcy Paige

As a gardener, I am afforded a lot of design input as I care for gardens: re-doing beds, planting annuals and bulbs, and festooning containers come to mind. The gardening season is busy, but alongside my horticultural duties, I also take on several design projects just to make sure that I don't have a single moment to myself! This season I was kept extra busy with some fun design challenges. [Read the article](#)



**Beautiful and Beneficial:
Natural Swimming Ponds Offer Ecological Options**
by Trevor Smith

A low gurgle emerges from beneath the *Mentha aquatica* as clear water begins to make its way from the bog downstream between smooth boulders and over gravel. Liquid fingers catch the sun's rays, bending them and throwing them in every direction. The blooms of iris, *hemerocallis*, and *lobelia* bob in the gentle over the bog, where the water collects. The stream rushes over a broken slab of granite in a shimmering sheet adding its high-pitched notes to the chorus of gurgles above as it drops into the pond. [Read the article](#)



Greening the Greenway
by Stu Shilaber

The [Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway](#) is Boston's only organically maintained public park and one of a handful of organically maintained urban parks in the United States. The Greenway was built atop the main north/south tunnel of the Central Artery by the State of Massachusetts, which replaced a 1950s era elevated highway in a project known as the Big Dig. Its 15 acres of parks, spread along 1 1/2 miles of downtown Boston, were designed by different firms with extensive input from neighborhoods, the city and the state. [Read the article](#)



Japanese Barberry: An Exotic Invasive Plant Fact Sheet
by Bruce Wenning

Japanese barberry is an exotic invasive shrub that is well established in home and commercial landscapes. Ward and Williams (2011) report that this species is established in 31 states and four Canadian provinces. A popular ornamental deciduous shrub it ranges in size from three to seven or more feet in height (Johnson, 1996; Whitcomb, 1985). Shrubs that have not been pruned have a compact, dense form which is typically more broad than tall at maturity (Zouhar, 2008). Japanese barberry exhibits a high ornamental value plus it responds very well to pruning which is why landscape designers fell in love with this plant years ago. [Read the article](#)



Seeking Exhibitors for ELA's 19th Eco-Marketplace

If you have products or services that support the health of the landscape, become an exhibitor at **ELA's 19th Annual Conference and Eco-Marketplace, Sustainable Habitats: Building Ecological Connections** on February 27th and 28th, 2013 at the MassMutual Center, Springfield, Massachusetts. Build connections with people who have first-hand experience with the ecological management of landscapes. Let them know that you can help. Support the oldest Northeast conference that highlights all aspects of ecological, sustainable, and organic landscaping practices. [Click here to view exhibitor brochure.](#)

Green Your Holidays

With holidays around the corner, many of us try to approach the festivities with the environment in mind. [Click here](#) for a few ideas to get started with some ecological gift giving ideas. With thanks to Maria Bartlett, Andover, MA, for letting ELA adapt her list.

Gleanings

- [New England Wildflower Society: Geology, Soil, and Plants](#); Framingham, MA; November 28, 7-9pm.
- [Conway School's Graduate Program in Sustainable Landscape Planning and Design](#), information session; Conway, MA; December 1, 10am-3pm.
- [NOFA Annual Gathering: Success with the Organic Land Care Market](#); Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA; December 5, 9am-5:30pm
- [Maryland Water Monitoring Council Annual Conference](#); Linthicum Heights, MD; December 6.
- Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists Half-day Workshop; December 6. Email ecosys88@gmail.com for additional information.
- [Winter Plant Identification for Wetland Boundary Determination](#); University of New Hampshire; December 7 & 14, 9am-4pm.
- [University of Massachusetts Winter School for Turf Managers](#); January 2 - February 15.
- Public comment period for SITES extended until November 26, 5pm Central. [Click to comment.](#)
- Do you have a photo that tells a great ecological landscaping story? ELA is updating its marketing materials and could feature your project. Email your photo to ela.info@comcast.net and enter *Eco-Photo* in the Subject line. Include a caption and photo credit in the body of the email.
- The [Office of Outdoor Advertising \(OOA\)](#) is accepting comments on proposed changes to regulations that govern outdoor advertising in MA, including the use of electronic signs. Direct your comments to the attention of:

Director of OOA
MassDOT c/o Office of Outdoor Advertising
Ten Park Plaza, Room 6133
Boston, MA 02116-3973

Phone: 857-368-9700
Email: OOAInformation@dot.state.ma.us



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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