



ecological  
landscaping  
association

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

## May

ELA's growth as an organization depends upon its incredibly well-informed membership and newsletter readership. For twenty years, ideas that started as small seeds have grown and bloomed, nurtured by members and friends who share their time and expertise. This is where you come in. ELA is seeking new seeds, new ideas that will help us grow in different directions, and we want to hear from you. Do you have an ecological story you'd like to share? Have you read about or heard about an area you'd like to learn more about? Are you bumping up against challenges or problems that ELA could help find solutions for? Are there educational opportunities that we should pursue? [Click here to send us an email](#) and let us know what's on your mind. It's always a pleasure to hear from ELA's members and friends. MS



### Composting: Addition by Subtraction by Paul Kwiatkowski

Mount Auburn is not only America's first garden cemetery, but an arboretum with more than 6,000 trees from around the globe. For those of you who have had the opportunity to visit and explore the grounds, I hope you were so entranced by the trees, gardens, monuments, and wildlife that many return visits have been required. Those of you who have not discovered Mount Auburn yet, I hope you visit soon. [Read the article.](#)



### Living Walls Shine on Today Show

Earth Day 2013 was a special day for Trevor Smith, ELA's VP and owner of [Land Escapes](#). When NBC's Today Show contacted George Irwin at [Green Living Technologies International](#) (GLTi) about including living walls in their Earth Day program, Irwin turned to Trevor to design and create the six freestanding 4' by 8' panels that would showcase GLTi's wall systems. After 10 days of intense activity, six living walls designed by Trevor were unveiled on Monday, April 22. [Read the article](#)



### Carried Away: A Keynote Speaker Finishes His Message by Jeff Lowenfels

Authors spend a lot of time by themselves, as was abundantly apparent when I got a chance to Keynote at the ELA's 2013 Conference on the subject matter of my new book, *Teaming With Nutrients: The Organic Gardener's Guide to Optimizing Plant Nutrition*. I found myself gushing with excitement as I was able to finally share the wonders of plant cells and their workings with someone other than Gracie, our inquisitive, but not that intelligent English Shorthaired Pointer. [Read the article.](#)



### **Seven Steps to Building a Winning Team of Employees!** by Frank Crandall

A major issue facing many small businesses, especially horticultural firms, is attracting quality employees and then finding ways to retain them. Lack of good employees will limit the growth of your company; however, hiring the right employees will provide you with the opportunity to assemble a winning team. With a team of dedicated, talented, and motivated employees, there are no limits to what your business can achieve. [Read the article.](#)



### **Impatiens Downy Mildew Alert** by Heather Faubert

Impatiens downy mildew has changed our view of impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*). I think no impatiens should be planted in the Northeast, or anywhere, except in very arid locations such as the Midwest. I heard of many landscapers replacing customers' impatiens at the landscapers' expense, once the plants succumbed to downy mildew in 2012. Don't let this happen to you in 2013. [Read the article.](#)



### **Where Did All the Ticks Come From?** by Craig Hollingsworth

The following article is reprinted with the author's permission from the UMass Amherst Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program website. We are seeing a lot of ticks this spring. They didn't just hatch: these are adults that have overwintered. Those females that survived the winter did not find hosts and are waiting along the trails for a vertebrate to happen along. Tick nymphs also overwintered. Nymphs are generally dormant in the spring and most active in midsummer, but some people are finding nymphs feeding on them even now. [Read the article.](#)

## **Gleanings**

### **Nutrients for All Challenge**

Ashoka's Nutrients for All and Ashoka Changemakers are seeking your innovative solutions that will ensure the availability of nutrients for healthy, natural ecosystems, farms, food, and people. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the two organizations launched a competition they hope will encourage innovations that catalyze a transformation to a Nutrients-for-All world, and create vitality for people and the planet.

Check their website for a [Welcome Letter](#) detailing their initiative. Then visit their Guidelines, Criteria & Prizes page to learn how to enter or nominate an individual, organization, or partnership that is solving this critical challenge.

Enter the competition before the deadline on June 19, 2013 for a chance to win cash prizes totaling US \$45,000. Winners will be announced in September.

Follow the group at [#nutrients4all](#) on Twitter and on [Facebook](#) to receive updates about the Nutrients for All competition and to send your feedback. For questions about the competition, email [dmatielo@changemakers.com](mailto:dmatielo@changemakers.com).



### **Events to Note** (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)

[Destructive Invasive Tree Pests Are Headed Our Way: Is Your Community Ready?](#) - UVM SOUL Tree Steward Webinar; May 15, 5:00-6:00pm (ET).

[Basic Wetland Delineation: Soils](#); Marion, MA; May 18, 8:30am-4:00pm.

[100 Greywater Challenge Laundry-to-Landscape Workshop](#); Allterra Solar, SantaCruz, CA; May 18, 10:00am-2:00pm.

[Twentieth Annual EarthFest](#); Boston, MA; May 18, 11:00am-5:00pm.

[At home with Native Plants, Rain Gardens, and Cape Cod's Natural Landscape](#); Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, MA; May 19.

[Inland Wetland Plant Identification](#); UMass Amherst, May 22, 9:00am-3:30pm  
[Identification of Turf Damaging Insects Workshop](#); UMass Amherst, MA; June 26, 8:00am.  
[Native Pollinator Conservation](#); Weston, MA; May 25, 10:00am-1:00pm.  
[Identifying Inland Wetland Soils](#); UMass Amherst, MA; May 29, 9:00am-3:30pm.  
[Invasive Plants: What are they? And what can be done?](#) Cold Spring Park, 1200 Beacon St, Newton, MA; May 29, 6:00-8:00pm.  
[EPA Region III, Volunteer Monitoring Conference](#); Shepherdstown, WV; Event: June 7, 1:00-5:00pm & June 8, 8:30am-1:30pm; registration deadline: May 29.  
[Green Roofs, Green Walls, Vertical/Rooftop Agriculture Training](#); Hyde Leadership Charter School, Bronx, NY; June 1-2.  
[Butterflies, Butterflies, Butterflies](#); Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, MA; June 2, 2:00pm.  
[Native Shrub Heroes](#); Framingham, MA; June 4, 10:00am-1:00pm.  
[Scouting for Insect & Weed Problems of Woody Ornamentals](#); College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA; June 4, 5:00pm.  
[Scouting for Insect & Weed Problems of Woody Ornamentals](#); Stockbridge Hall, UMass Amherst, MA; June 6, 5:00pm.  
[Natural Swimming Ponds: Behind the Scenes](#); Sandwich, MA; June 5, 10:30am-12:30pm.  
[The Restoration of Consecration Dell](#); Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; June 5, 7:00-8:30pm.  
[EPA Region III, Volunteer Monitoring Conference](#); Shepherdstown, WV; Event: June 7, 1:00-5:00pm & June 8, 8:30am-1:30pm; registration deadline: May 29.  
[Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program](#); Doubletree Hotel, Milford, MA; June 11, 9:00am-3:00pm.  
[Container Planting with Natives](#); Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, MA; June 13, 2:00pm.  
[Hands-on Wetland Restoration Workshop for Professionals](#); Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnstable, MA; June 25-26. Email [iives@massaudubon.org](mailto:iives@massaudubon.org).  
[Spicket River Greenway Tour](#); Lawrence, MA; June 26, 1:00-3:00pm.  
[Identification of Turf Damaging Insects Workshop](#); Agricultural Engineering Building, UMass Amherst, MA, June 26, 8:00am-12:00noon.  
[Pond Renovation](#); Watertown, MA; June 29, 10:00am-1:00pm.



The advertisement for Fertrell features a green background on the left with the company logo and contact information. On the right, a photograph shows a young child in a blue and white striped shirt playing in a grassy field. The text 'Helping Plants, Soil & Animals Grow Naturally Since 1946.' is overlaid on the bottom right of the photo.

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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).

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor