



ecological
landscaping
association

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

December

Whether we walk or run through them, golf or bird watch on them, cross the street or travel for miles to find them, our community green spaces are resources we cherish. And they are landscapes that we want to protect and sustain in an ecologically conscious way. An upcoming Symposium co-hosted by ELA and Wellesley College, presents a full day of panel discussions focused on these special places: [Maintaining Large-Scale Landscapes Sustainably](#). This issue of the Newsletter offers a Symposium preview with two articles by panelists: Anthony Ruggiero, Greenway Conservancy, and Paul Kwiatkowski, Mt. Auburn Cemetery. You'll also find a brief introduction to a hands-on green roof workshop that will be featured at ELA's Conference in February, a detailed look at native plants in bioswales, and a glimpse at 10 projects that reclaim damaged landscapes.

As we approach the shortest days of the year here in the northern hemisphere, ELA wishes you the warmth of friends and family and the pleasure of a favorite landscape. *MS*



Organic Turf Maintenance on a Large Scale at Rose Kennedy Greenway

by Anthony Ruggiero

The Greenway is a mile-and-a-half-long public park that stretches from Chinatown to the North End in downtown Boston. It is a linear series of small parks that sit above the I-93 tunnel totaling approximately 15 acres, four of which are turf. The Greenway is cared for by the [Greenway Conservancy](#) and is Boston's only 100% organically maintained public open space. Because it is a public park, the care of the Greenway's lawns and landscapes face many challenges, and in order to successfully maintain them organically the horticulture staff utilizes numerous strategies to maintain the lawn areas. [Read the article](#)

Anthony is a panelist at ELA's [Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium](#) at Wellesley College on January 16th.



A Year of Sustainability

by Paul Kwiatkowski

Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, was consecrated in 1831. The resolve of its founders was to create a place of beauty for contemplation and commemoration. Over its 182 years, Mount Auburn has experienced transformations in the physical landscape due to the changing aesthetic taste of particular time periods, as well as the need for more interment space. It has also experienced transformations in its landscape maintenance practices. During the 19th century, an army of gardeners provided the manpower to manage the landscape. By the late 20th century, the machines and inorganic chemicals that replaced the majority of workers reduced labor costs and made many maintenance tasks far more economical. [Read the article](#)

Paul is a panelist at ELA's [Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium](#) at Wellesley College on January 16th.



Get Hands-On Green Roof Experience at ELA Conference

Planting a roof in February? In Springfield, MA? Why not when it's part of ELA's [20th Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#)? On February 27th, George Irwin, President of [Green Living Technologies International \(GLTi\)](#), and Trevor Smith, owner of [Land Escapes](#) and ELA President, offer a hands-on demonstration of a living roof installation. The early morning workshop takes place before regular conference sessions begin on Thursday and allows participants to get their hands dirty as they walk through the steps for green roof installation exactly as they would be completed at a client's site. Participants will help complete all the installation steps working with all the parts and materials required to complete a job. [Read the article](#)



Native Plant Selections for Biofilters and Rain Gardens

by Catherine Neal

Modern storm water management systems rely on vegetation to hold the soil, filter contaminants, absorb nutrients, intercept and transpire water, and support healthy and diverse soil biology. Engineers are only beginning to appreciate the contribution that landscapers can make to help green infrastructure survive and thrive. Selecting appropriate plants for biofilters, bioswales, rain gardens and other vegetated storm water management systems is a critical first step to their success.

[Read the article](#)



Adapt. Reuse. Reclaim. 10 Landscape Design Projects That Turn Damaged and Neglected Spaces Into Healthy, Beautiful Environments

by Pamela Hartford

Landscape architects frequently work to transform areas that contain industrial and toxic waste, infrastructure no longer in use, or land affected by war, natural disaster or disuse. These neglected places, while often having a negative impact on the environment and surrounding community, are simultaneously part of our cultural heritage. To highlight the significance of these spaces, and the potential that they hold to become something more than a blight, I showcase a range of projects that illuminate how designers use unlikely opportunities to transform landscapes into spectacular spaces - all while preserving their historic and cultural meaning. [Read the article](#)



The Practical Application of Tree Filter Systems

by Paul Iorio

Due to an editing error, Paul's article appeared last month with an incorrect headline. In case you missed it, here it is again.

I recently brought to completion a large parking lot project that illustrates the applications as well as adaptability of tree filter systems in an urban environment. Tree filter systems integrate common street trees with stormwater collection to achieve a viable and sustainable alternative to a traditional "end of pipe" system, while still meeting stormwater management and remediation goals. They utilize the principal of "bioretention" - the natural process by which chemicals and sediments are removed from stormwater runoff prior to subsurface infiltration. [Read the article](#)

Gleanings

National Soil Project

Dr. Elham Ghabbour and Professor Geoffrey Davies, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, are leading a study of humic acid, fulvic acid, and humin in the nation's top soils. They are seeking soil samples from all types of landscapes under cultivation. The samples will be subjected to spectral and elemental analysis and tested to determine the sequestered carbon and ash contents. Testing is completed at no charge to the participants; results will be shared with donors and will go into a database. Information about how to submit samples may be found at <http://www.northeastern.edu/hagroup/national-soil-project/>.



Call for Papers - Designing for Success: Ecological Restoration in Times of Change

Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and Conway School are accepting papers and posters to be presented at their conference to be held April 25 and 26 at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. The conference will focus on aspects of ecological restoration in times of change, with the general theme of designing for success, including a broad range of ecological restoration projects from small isolated sites to broad regional landscapes. Contributed papers and posters are asked to pertain to, but are not limited to, the following subject areas:

- Urban ecological restoration
- Restoration of wetland systems
- Forest, grassland, alpine, river or stream restoration
- Restoration targets or techniques
- Evaluation of restoration project success
- Restoration and climate change
- Case studies in ecological restoration
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and First Nations perspective on ecological restoration

For additional information, [refer to the website](#).



Project Orange Thumb Grants

Fiskars, known for its orange-handled scissors and tools, is offering grants that support local projects that make a difference in their communities through unique community garden initiatives while demonstrating how a small group of people can make changes that affect the entire community. Ten winners will receive \$5,000 in cash and Fiskars garden tools to help support their goals of neighborhood beautification and horticulture education; one applicant will receive a complete garden makeover. Project Orange Thumb is intended to promote new garden spaces and garden expansions. Nonprofit organizations, public schools, and municipalities in the U.S. and Canada are eligible to apply. The application deadline is December 31, 2013. Visit www.Fiskars.com/projectorangethumb to submit an online application.



National Volunteer Week Grants

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) recently announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for National Volunteer Week 2014 projects. Grants up to \$4,500 will be allocated to organizations planning and executing meaningful service projects that will enhance community engagement during National Volunteer Week - April 6-13, 2014. The application deadline is 12:00 Noon on January 3, 2014. [Click to download the RFP](#). Contact Shana Lothrop at 617-542-2544 x214 or slothrop@mass-service.org for more info.



Fellowship Opportunity

The New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) is currently seeking applicants for the six-month [Herbert J. Esther M. Atkinson Conservation Fellowship and Lovejoy Conservation Fellowship](#), and the three-month [Mary Lee Everett Conservation Fellowship](#). Candidates for either fellowship should have some familiarity with the flora of New England and ecological processes, excellent speaking and writing skills, good phone skills, a willingness to call landowners, and a sense of humor. The application deadline for all positions is February 11, 2014. Contact John Burns, Plant Conservation Volunteer Coordinator, at jburns@newenglandwild.org or 508-877-7630 x3204 for more info.



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

- Dec 31 - [Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); March 7 & 8, Ithaca, NY.
Jan 5 - [History of the Delaware Canal \(Lecture\)](#); New Hope, PA; 2:00-3:00pm.
Jan 7 - **ELA EVENT**→[Irrigation Tips for Landscape Designers](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00noon.
Jan 9 & 10 - [Landscape Design Symposium](#); New London, CT.
Jan 11-Feb 22 - [Landscape Design with Native Plants](#); New Hope, PA; 10:00am-2:00pm Saturdays.
Jan 16 - **ELA EVENT**→[Managing Large-Scale Landscapes Sustainably](#); Wellesley, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.
Jan 17 - [Community Training in Ecological Design](#); Boscawen, NH.
Jan 18 - [Magical Meadow](#)(Winter Walk); New Hope, PA; 1:00-2:00pm.
Jan 18 - [Knowing Native Plants](#)(Plant ID); New Hope, PA; 10:00am-12:00noon.
Jan 23 - [Lecture with Julie Moir Messervy](#); Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA; 5:30pm.
Jan 26 - [Reading the Rodents](#) (Lecture); New Hope, PA; 2:00-3:00pm.
Feb 4 - March 18 - [Residential Landscape Design](#); Cambridge, MA; 5:45-7:45pm on Tuesdays.
Feb 5 - [Wetland Shrubs in Winter](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.
Feb 24, 26 & March 1- [Bones of the Garden: Strengthening the Design](#); Framingham, MA.
Feb 26 & 27 - **ELA EVENT**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace; Springfield, MA.
March 5 - [Environmental Literacy for the Next Generation](#); Worcester, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.
March 7 & 8 - [Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); Ithaca, NY.
April 24 & 25 - [Designing for Success: Ecological Restoration in Times of Change](#); Amherst, MA.



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