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water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

## November

"Indoor days" are upon us in New England; it's a good time to reflect back on the season as we do in this issue of the Newsletter. Ellen Sousa reviews the challenges and successes of her year designing and working in the landscape, and we present two large projects that achieved milestones this year: a tree filter system in MA and an ongoing wetland system for stormwater treatment in upstate NY. Laurence Coronis also offers up some great tips to help you review this year's business and plan improvements. And, be sure to read an important announcement by Trevor Smith, ELA President.

During November, ELA enjoys thanking its donors (Look for the list below.) and expressing appreciation for the continued support of members, friends, and followers. Many people contributed this year by purchasing "Ant Buttons" at the Conference. Your accumulated dollars have been put to work upgrading the ELA website, and we're currently in the midst of website upgrades that will provide a refreshed and more robust site. *MS*



### **ELA Changes Name: Continues Work Toward Core Mission and Expands Collaboration**

*by Trevor Smith*

For over 20 years, ELA has grown and changed, adding to its educational events and appealing to an ever broader audience that shares an interest in ecological land care. Today I am pleased to announce a name change that we believe more accurately reflects the ELA's expanded role in the

landscape community: *Ecological Landscape Alliance*. [Read the article](#)



### **2013 Season Wrap-up: Weird Weather and Growing Ecological Interest**

*by Ellen Sousa*

The 2013 season? Well, with apologies to the late Jerry Garcia, I have to say, "What a long, strange trip it's been...." First, the snow never wanted to leave. In central Massachusetts, snow was still on the ground in mid-April as bulbs and perennials pushed their way out of the half-frozen ground. Then, from April into May it was unusually dry, no April showers at all but plenty of May flowers. All the moisture from the late snow cover did contribute to a spectacular blooming season for spring blooming plants and trees. [Read the article](#)



### **Practical Application of Tree Filter Systems**

*by Paul Iorio*

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. Tree filter systems utilize the principal of "bioretention" - the natural process by which chemicals and sediments are removed from stormwater runoff prior to subsurface infiltration. Many state regulatory agencies and municipalities now strongly encourage low impact development (LID) techniques.... [Read the article](#)



### **Utilizing Natural Systems and Bringing Groups Together to Clean Up Lake George**

*by Randy Rath*

One of the biggest threats to the water quality of many lakes - including Lake George in upstate New York - is stormwater runoff. After a storm, water that falls on soil can infiltrate down into the ground and eventually make its way into the groundwater. Water that falls on impervious surfaces, such as roads and parking lots, cannot soak into the ground, and instead moves across these surfaces. [Read the article](#)



### **Hindsight Is 20/20: The Importance of Off-season Planning**

*by Laurence Coronis*

Right about now most Green Industry professionals are burnt out. They can't wait for the end of the busy season and are looking forward to enjoying a break. But the upcoming winter months are the most important time for you to plan and prepare for your future success. The old adage, "hindsight is 20/20" is true, but it requires that you turn around and look back at the year with your glasses on! [Read the article](#)

## **Gleanings**

### **Internship Opportunity: Social Media Specialist**

Help maintain and expand ELA's social media program to engage and represent our community online using Facebook, Twitter and other platforms to deliver frequent, meaningful messages consistent with our mission and current activities. Time commitment 15 min/day. [Email ELA](#) for more information.



## Thank You to Our Donors

ELA recognizes the following donations made during the 2013 Annual Appeal:

Garbrielle Chadowitz, OR  
Cassandra Curtis, NH  
Patricia Diggins, Wellesley College Botanic Gardens, MA  
Tim Downey, Aesthetic Landscape Care, Inc, NY  
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Susan Storer, Horticulture Services, MA  
Bruce Wenning, The Country Club  
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## Fertilizers Are (Nearly) Forever

Whereas most fertilizer nitrogen ends up in plants, plenty sits in the soil for decades, David Biello reports in Scientific American. [Read about the implications or listen to the Podcast.](#)

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

Nov 17 - **ELA EVENT**→[Ecological Impacts of Climate Change in New England](#); Framingham, MA, 1:30-3:30pm.  
Nov 21 - **ELA FREE EVENT**→[Green Landscape Equipment and Green Zones](#); Boxborough, MA, 3:00-5:00pm.  
Nov 21 - [UMass Turf Program](#); Amherst, MA, 6:00-8:00pm.  
Dec 4-7 - [ASCA Annual Conference](#); Uncasville, CT.  
Dec 11 - **ELA EVENT**→[Sustainability Makes Cents](#); **Webinar**, 7:30-8:30pm EST.  
Dec 11 - [Gowanus Canal Conservancy's Urban Ecology Lecture](#); Brooklyn, NY, 11:00am-3:00pm.  
Jan 16 - **ELA EVENT**→[Managing Large-Scale Landscapes Sustainably](#); Wellesley, MA, 8:30am-4:30pm.  
Feb 26 & 27 **ELA EVENT**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#): ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace; Springfield, MA.

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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

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