



ecological  
landscaping  
association

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

## February

We're just days away from ELA's 20th Conference & Eco-Marketplace. Register before February 19th to take advantage of early registration discounts. The Marketplace has sold out to an interesting range of exhibitors, and you can see them all on the [Virtual Eco-Marketplace](#).

This month's articles offer a glimpse of topics addressed by conference speakers. The staff at John Todd Ecological Design provides insight into their development of a "stream within a stream" to clean the Blackstone River Canal. (Dr. Todd, the [Conference Keynote Speaker](#), will expand on the use of "living technology" to treat waste and restore polluted habitat.) Dan Jaffe looks at supporting wildlife in our gardens, and Lynden B. Miller shows the importance of plants in urban settings. We have a SITES update, and one of this year's new exhibitors, John Kinchla of Amherst Nurseries, discusses reducing soil loss by transitioning to grow bags. Join us at the Conference to learn more about these and many other [topics](#). MS



### **Ecological Design along the Blackstone: Creating a Clean River...within a River**

by Max Rome, Nick Bernat, and Lauren Valle

In precolonial times the Blackstone River was a large and ecologically-rich tidal river. As it meandered 49 miles from present day Worcester, MA to Providence, RI the Blackstone drained an area of 479 square miles and fell 450 feet. Known as Kittacuck, "great tidal river," to the native peoples who lived along these waters, the bountiful river provided wetland habitat for native mollusks, anadromous fishes, and other important species. [Read the article](#)

*John Todd's Conference Keynote, "[Healing the Waters: A Tale of Ecology and Living Technologies](#)," further discusses designs like the installation along the Blackstone. Wednesday, Feb 26, 6:30pm.*



### **Where the Wild Things Are: How to Support Wildlife in the Modern Gardening World**

by Dan Jaffe

One of the great reasons to plant native species rather than their non-native counterparts is the support they provide to local wildlife populations. Simply put: If you plant native species-any native species-you will support a greater array of wildlife than if you had planted the same area with non-native species. The basic principle is that wildlife needs food, water, and shelter. However, for those gardeners truly interested in creating a creature-friendly environment, it is possible to do more. [Read the article](#)

*Dan Jaffe presents "[Designing for Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species](#)" on Thursday, Feb 27, 8:30am.*



## Beautifying Public Places: The Importance of Plants

by Lynden B. Miller

One of the most important elements in successful public urban green space is PLANTS. Over the last 30 years in New York City, we have found exciting reasons to use plants in new ways to improve the lives of city dwellers. We now know that plants have the power to soften and civilize public urban space, even in places once thought to be dangerous. These green oases give pleasure to millions who crave a connection with nature in their lives. [Read the article](#)

Lynden B. Miller presents "[The Role of Plants in City Beautification](#)" on Thursday, Feb 27, 1:30pm.



## Conserving Soil with Grow Bags

by John Kinchla

Amherst Nurseries grows trees and shrubs on approximately 100 acres of land on farms in Amherst, MA and Charlemont, MA. As the nursery owner, I try to produce plants that are as environmentally friendly as possible by reducing the use of pesticides, using drip irrigation, and growing in field soil (which uses less water and fertilizer than plastic container methods). One problem with field grown nursery stock is the loss of soil when the plant is harvested balled and burlapped (B&B). Since the soils at Amherst Nurseries are of a very high quality, the problem of soil loss is something that I'm acutely aware of. In response, I've been shifting the production of Amherst Nurseries from B&B to grow bags as a means to reduce the loss of field soil via B&B production. [Read the article](#)

Visit Amherst Nurseries at the [Eco-Marketplace](#) on February 26 & 27.



## SITES Update: Progress on the Sustainable Sites Initiative

by Tobias Wolf

The [Sustainable Sites Initiative](#), known as SITES™, has made important strides in the last year. SITES promotes sustainable practices for the design and management of landscapes. Complementing the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (USGBC LEED®) program, which focuses on buildings, SITES takes sustainability outdoors. As the nation's most comprehensive rating system for sustainable landscapes, SITES provides guidelines and standards for every stage of a project, from site selection through operations. [Read the article](#)

Emily McCoy, Andropogon Associates, presents a SITES-awarded project "[Performance-based Landscapes: Shoemaker Green](#)" on Thursday, Feb 27, 3:30pm.

## Gleanings

### Managing Pollinators

A new publication from the Xerces Society and Organic Seed Alliance, *Pollinator Management for Organic Seed Producers*, provides strategies for conserving pollinators, managing crop isolation distances, and reducing unintended outcrossing between organic and non-organic seed crops. A PDF of the 22-page publication is available on the [Xerces website](#).



### Bumble Bee Watch - Calling Citizen Scientists

As the season warms up, take time not just to smell the roses, but to photograph the bees on the roses. Bumble Bee Watch is looking for citizen scientists across the U.S. to record sightings of bumble bees, those heavy lifters of pollination, and their nests. Set up an account now, and you'll be ready to submit photos from your digital camera or cell phone as soon as you spot your first bee. Go to [www.bumblebeewatch.org/](http://www.bumblebeewatch.org/) for lots more information.



### Home Garden Workshops

UMass Extension has posted its 2014 Fruit Advisor Seminar Series with workshops ranging from grafting fruit trees to native pollinator conservation. Find the complete list of offerings on their website: <https://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/mass-aggie-seminars-2014>.



### ELA Member Recognized for Therapeutic Garden Design

Tom Benjamin, [Wellnesscapes](#), recently received a Landscape Architecture Award from *Healthcare Design Magazine* for a Serenity Garden he designed for Kent Hospital in Warwick, RI. The design description and photos appear on page 40 of the [online issue](#) of the magazine released in January. A cost-constrained redesign of a former paved loading area, the project exemplifies how to stretch a budget to achieve multiple benefits, including storm water management, slope stabilization, and low maintenance. In addition to his award-winning design, Tom has transitioned other areas of Kent's campus to sustainable landscape practices over several years.



### Looking for Leaders

Organizers of the 2014 Northeast Natural History Conference are looking for individuals to lead workshops and field trips, organize oral sessions, and exhibit products and services. The event will be held in April 7-9 in Springfield, MA. Find the deadlines and proposal documents on the website: [http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC\\_2014/NENHC2014.shtml](http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC_2014/NENHC2014.shtml).



### Environmental Vision Award

If you attend the Boston Flower & Garden Show this year, be sure to look for the winner of ELA's Environmental Vision Award. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, ELA will present an award to the exhibitor whose design and execution best represents ecological concepts, including conservation of resources, use of recycled materials, and a design guided by knowledge of and respect for natural ecosystems. The winner receives a \$150 donation to the environmental non-profit of choice.



### Landscaping Success

Twenty-six top landscapers from around the country share their tips for succeeding in the landscaping industry. They are compiled in a slide show by Brendan Bowers at <http://www.slideshare.net/EMSplus/how-to-succeed-in-the-landscaping-industry-30223394>.



### Nonprofit Leadership and Management

A series of online courses lets nonprofit professionals gain certification from the Society for Nonprofits. Courses include Strategic Planning, Resource Development, Board Governance, Marketing, Mission Based Management, Social Entrepreneurship, Volunteer Management, and Strategic Alliances. To learn more, visit <http://www.snpo.org/lino/>. Enter redemption code **FEB2014** at checkout to receive discounted pricing.



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

Feb 18 - [Wildness in Our Midst: The Middlesex Fells](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00pm.

Feb 19 - [Invasive Plants: What Follows Success](#), **Webinar**; 7:30-8:30pmEST.

Feb 20 - [Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.

Feb 20 - [Growth, Effectiveness, Management \(GEM 2\)](#): Horticultural Business Seminars; Rockfall, CT.

Feb 20-23 - [The Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show](#); Providence, RI.

Feb 24 - [Water Wars in MA: Reforming Water Management in a Blue State](#); Newton, MA; 7:00pm.

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 1 - [MACC Annual Environmental Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-5:15pm.

March 4-6 - [NESEA Building Energy Conference](#); Boston, MA.

March 5 - [Environmental Literacy for the Next Generation](#); Worcester, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

March 5 - [The Organic Land Care Symposium](#); Oyster Bay, NY; 8:00am-3:30pm.

March 5 - [Landscape Design as Ecological Art](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

March 7 & 8 - [Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); Ithaca, NY.

March 12 - [Principles of Sustainable Landscape Maintenance](#), **Webinar**; 7:30-8:30pmEST.

March 12-16 - [Boston Flower and Garden Show](#); Boston, MA.

March 17 - [Green Infrastructure Design](#); Holyoke, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

March 18 - [State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management](#); Milford, MA;

March 19-April 9 - [Stewardship of the Urban Landscape \(SOUL\) Tree Steward Program](#); various locations on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

March 20 - [Research, Case Studies & Anecdotes: The Latest in Wetland Science](#); Southbury, CT; 8:15am-3:50pm.

March 20 - [Perennial Plant Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-4:00pm.

March 22 - [Mass Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.

March 22 - [Gowanus Canal Conservancy Clean and Green Program begins](#)at sites throughout Brooklyn, NY.

March 23 - [Permaculture Design Certification](#); Waitsfield, VT.

March 25 - [Pollinator Conservation Short Course](#); Jaffrey, NH; 9:00am-4:00pm.

March 27 - [NOFA Organic Lawn Care Certificate Course](#); New London, CT; 8:00am-5:00pm.

March 29 & 30 - [Project Native Film Festival](#); Barrington, MA.

April 2 - [American Oaks: A Genus to Love](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

April 3 - [Spring Kickoff for Landscapers: UMass Extension Landscape Education Day](#); UMass Cranberry Station; 10:00am.

April 8 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:00pm.

April 9 - [Smart Watering](#), **Webinar**; 7:30-8:30pmEST.

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).

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