



ecological
landscaping
association

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

December

Environmentalism really does start at home with the way we regard water, soil, plants, animals, and all the varied resources on the properties we own or interact with every day. I believe that understanding the ways in which our home landscapes - however you define home - are part of the larger environment and making sustainable choices about those landscapes really can have a cumulative effect. Those are ELA's underlying tenets, and the organization works hard every day to educate, energize, and encourage us to make sustainable choices on behalf of our home landscapes. Every ELA membership helps support the mission of advocating for environmentally sustainable landscapes. Please join our effort by [becoming a member](#) or by continuing your membership with a [renewal](#) before the end of the year. And on behalf of ELA, best wishes for 2013. MS

Ecological Design Creates Oasis at Urban Medical Facility

by Amanda Sloan and Dave Renzi

As they make the left turn into the Providence, RI doctor's office parking lot, some patients might set their jaws and steel themselves. The screening procedure these Baby Boom Generation clients are about to undergo - while relatively comfortable, completely routine, and sometimes lifesaving - is one that makes many feel squeamish beforehand: the sign at the turn says "Gastroenterology Associates/West River Endoscopy."

[Read the article](#)



Mill Brook Restoration - Strategies for Success Part 2

Maintaining and Monitoring the Project

by Lisa Cowan, PLA, ASLA

At a recent meeting with fellow landscape architects, there was a lengthy discussion and agreement about the importance of maintenance and follow-up monitoring for project success. That discussion was primarily focused on the challenges of ensuring good maintenance on traditional site development projects.

[Read the article](#)



Current Favorites - Native...and Nearly Native

by Lorayne Black, ASLA

I always like this time of year. The deadlines seem to be spaced out a bit more than during the spring and fall months. The last of the site visits are wrapping up as the ability to write with mittens in the freezing cold and wet weather becomes more difficult. It's time to sit at the drawing table and computer and work on the designs that will eventually be put in the earth, come the New England "thaw."

[Read the article](#)



The Importance of Seasonal Cash Flow

by Frank Crandall

I do not have to remind horticultural businesses of the significance of ensuring seasonal cash flow to pay bills throughout the winter months. As we wind down our landscape, the busy season for maintenance, garden center, design, and nursery businesses, it is time to evaluate, assess, and plan for 2013. Top on the list is to analyze the cash flow for the next three to four months.

[Read the article](#)



ELA Joins Sustainable Sites Initiative

by Tobias Wolf, ASLA

The ELA Board is excited to announce that the organization recently joined the Sustainable Sites Initiative as a Participating Organization. The Sustainable Sites Initiative, also known as SITES, promotes sustainable landscapes through voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for design, construction, and maintenance.

[Read the article](#)

THE SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE™



Gleanings

[Invasive Plant Control, Inc.](#) recently announced a free series of invasive plant management webinars that includes IPC Web Solutions, Early Detection and Rapid Response, Contracting for Invasive Plant Management, The Development and Implementation of a Systematic Model for Managing Invasive Plants, and New Invasive Species Prevention Tool: Portable, undercarriage Rinse-off, and Reclaim System.

Click here for [the schedule](#) of webinars. Note that dates and times for specific webinars are subject to change. More information about each webinar can be viewed by clicking on the webinar title. To register for a webinar, click on "more details" and then the attachment on the next page which will bring up a .pdf file with the registration information.

Direct your questions or problems to Paul Rischmiller: paulrischmiller@mindspring.com or 615-308-0681.



The [Wild Ones](#) is compiling a national butterfly host and native nectar plant list that will become available on their website. In an effort to gather the most accurate native plant data possible, the Monarch Committee, is looking for input. To help, send them a list of the common milkweed native to your locale. List your geographic area and up to five plant species. Additionally, they are asking for any local native butterfly host and nectar plant lists for your region.

Send your data to Pam Wolfe, co-chair of Wild Ones, Wild for Monarchs at florawings@earthlink.net.



The Rachel Carson Council has developed the "[Green Mantle Initiative: Get some Green Back](#)" that offers 12 ways you can protect yourself, your family, your pets, your fellow citizens, and the wildlife that provides essential ecosystem services - all while lowering your energy use, reducing greenhouse gas production, and saving money. The Initiative offers three levels of action with increasingly progressive commitments to "greenness." By adopting these green actions and encouraging others to do so too, you can aspire to reach Rachel Carson's vision of "a destination that assures the preservation of our earth." (Silent Spring, 1962)



Native Nurseries

Landscape Architect Lorayne Black shares her reasons for including native plants in her article in this month's Newsletter. Lorayne gave us a list of her favorite nurseries for sourcing native plant material (below), but where do you find the best native plant selection for your area? In 2010, ELA President, Risa Edelstein, began a [LinkedIn](#) discussion seeking out local sources for native plants. Check the discussion for sources in your area...or add your own favorites to the growing LinkedIn list.

Millican Nurseries, Inc., Chichester, NH <http://www.millicannurseriesinc.com>

Cavicchio Nursery, Sudbury and Lincoln, MA <http://www.cavicchio.com>

Select Horticulture, Inc. Lancaster, MA <http://www.selecthorticulture.com>

Nursery Services, Lexington, MA <http://www.nurseryservices.com>

Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, MA <http://www.westonnurseries.com>



Events

[University of Massachusetts Winter School](#) for Turf Managers; January 2 - February 15.

Greening our Community Series: [Gasland](#); Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St, Newton; January 7, 7:00pm.

[GEM1: Horticultural Business Seminar](#); Westerly/Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce, Westerly, RI; January 9-10, 8am-5pm.

[GreenWorks/VNLA Winter Meeting](#) and Trade Show: University of Vermont, Burlington, VT; February 13, 3am-4:30pm.

[New England Grows](#); Boston Convention Center, Boston, MA; February 6-8. ELA and EPA co-host reception at NE Grows, February 7, 1 - 2 pm.

[5th Annual Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); Cinemapolis, Ithaca, NY; March 1 and 2.

[2013 Vermont Flower Show - The Road Not Taken](#): Save the Date; Essex Junction, VT; March 1-3.

[GEM2: Horticultural Business Seminar](#); Broad Meadow Brook Audubon Sanctuary, Worcester, MA; January 9-10, 8am-5pm.

**Thank you for your continued support of ELA!
Best wishes for a bright new year!**



Photo courtesy of Howard Garden Designs

Second opinions about your health are standard,
what about the health of your company?



Sharing over 35 years of business & landscape success

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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