



February 2012

The concepts that compel ecological landscaping extend into many areas of land care and life style. Ben Falk's Keynote Presentation this year's [Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) will focus on Permaculture, and this issue of the Newsletter offers an account by one practitioner of the broad perspective. Also, as the Conference draws near, you'll catch a glimpse of a couple of exhibitors you'll see in the Eco-Marketplace. [Register](#) soon to take advantage of the early discount that's available until February 15th.



The Consciously Designed Life - Living with the Active Voice of Permaculture by Lauren Chase Rowell

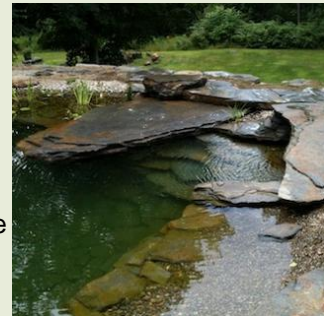
Part 1: Conscious Design in the Kitchen

Permaculture, simply put, is the conscious design of everything humans do. Good design is critically needed at this juncture in our human story if we are to succeed as a species, and good design can be done by anyone. In this sense, permaculture is inclusive and its current popularity speaks to everyday people making design decisions and re-skilling themselves to fit their needs and fulfill their wishes. The blend of mindful intention, good old Yankee ingenuity, and common sense that constitute [permaculture principles](#) and practices, has made permaculture the main stay of my lifestyle for many years. [\[click to continue...\]](#)

Active Zone Profile: Water House Pools

by Maureen Sundberg

Introduce water into the landscape and it brings changes in light and sound. Introduce water in the form of a natural pool, and the results are magical according to Chris Rawlings of [Water House Pools](#). "Take something as ancient as stone and put it with something as alive and precious as water, and it's just magical. I love creating these environments that weren't there before, creating a new space and bringing life onto a property that didn't have it before." [\[click to continue...\]](#)



Exhibitor Profile: HerbaNatur Controls Weeds Naturally

A water-soluble herbicide that's safe for humans, safe for pets and wildlife, and kills targeted plants in one application? Is this an ecological gardener's dream come true? Visit [HerbaNatur](#) at Booth #313 in ELA's [Eco-Marketplace](#) on March 8th to find out and to learn more about the company and its products. [\[click to continue...\]](#)

Roundtable Review: Sustainable Practices for Ecosystem Restoration

Reviewed by Brandon Schmitt

Nearly 60 people joined together at the beautiful Wellesley campus on January 19th to attend a discussion focused on erosion control and stormwater management led by employees of [Groundscapes Express](#). The site was a perfect setting for the discussion, as the company had recently completed an erosion control project on the campus where adelgid infected Hemlocks were removed, entitling the attendees to a first-hand view of their methods. [\[click to continue...\]](#)



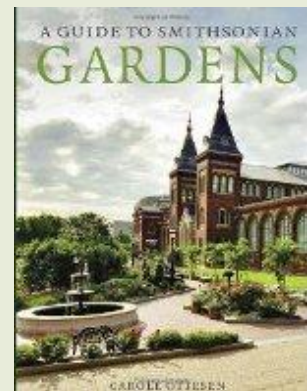
Asiatic Bittersweet Vine: An Exotic Invasive Plant Fact Sheet by Bruce Wenning

Asiatic bittersweet is a deciduous vine with alternate, simple, obovate to orbicular (round in shape) leaves with slightly toothed (crenate-serrate) margins (Dirr, 1998). Leaf apex has a slightly pointed tip (Dirr, 1998; Zheng, et al, 2006; Magee and Ahles, 2007). Asiatic bittersweet originates from China, Japan and Korea (Zheng et al, 2006; Huebner, Olson and Smith, 2006). [\[click to continue...\]](#)

Book Review: A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens

Written by Carole Ottesen, Published by Smithsonian Books, 2011 Reviewed by Risa Edelstein

As a landscape designer, I try to visit gardens every season both for inspiration and fresh ideas. A few years ago, I was in Washington with colleagues, and we got to see some of the gardens in the city including the natural landscape that surrounds the National Museum of the American Indian. *A Guide to Smithsonian Gardens* describes these and other Smithsonian landscapes with wonderful detail. [\[click to continue...\]](#)



February Gleanings

[Real Food Campaign Course](#), Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill St, Mattapan, MA; February 12 & March 25, 9:30am - 4:30pm.

[Compost Tea Workshop](#), Compostwerks, Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover St, Yorktown Heights, NY; February 22, 3:30am-3:30pm.

[Third Rhode Island Compost Conference and Trade Show](#), organized by the Environment Council

of Rhode Island's Compost Initiative, ECORI.org, and the Greater Providence Urban Agriculture Task Force. Hope Artiste Village, Main St, Pawtucket, RI; Monday, February 27, 2012, 9:00am - 3:00pm.

[Phytoremediation Presentation](#). Hunnewell Visitor Center, Arnold Arboretum. February 29, 6:00pm.

Invasive Plants: Just Too Overwhelming? [Grow Native Massachusetts Lecture Series](#). Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; March 7, 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

[2012 Decision Maker Workshops](#): Restoring the Bay's Natural Resources. Sponsored by Buzzards Bay Coalition. March 1 at Buzzards Bay Coalition, New Bedford, MA; March 22, at Briarwood, Monument Beach, MA; and April 5 at Cranberry Station, East Wareham, MA.

[Native Plant Center's 8th Annual Spring Landscape Conference](#). Valhalla, NY; March 12, snow date March 15.

[Perennial Plant Conference](#): University of Connecticut. Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, 1390 Storrs Road, Unit 4163, Storrs, CT; March 15; 8:00am - 4:00pm.

[Project Native](#) 2nd Environmental Film Festival. Triplex Cinema, Great Barrington, MA; Sunday, March 25.

Our Native Pollinators: Intriguing Insects and More, [Grow Native Massachusetts Lecture Series](#). Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; April 4, 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

Participate in a 15-20 minute, [confidential survey](#) by the Ohio Bioproducts Innovation Center that is seeking information from professional landscapers. A limited number of gift cards are offered to participants as an incentive.

Do you excel at *landscaping*, but struggle with the "*business stuff*" and *profitability*?

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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