



ecological
landscaping
association

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

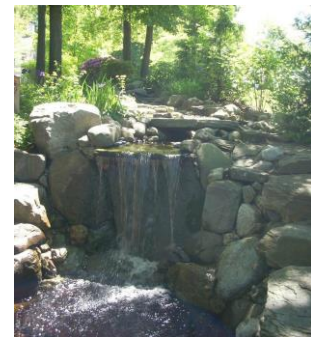
March

Come March, I'm anxiously moving from window to window looking out to find what has changed over the winter. A limb downed in the October storm allows more light in one corner of the yard; two pines, leaning precipitously for several years, slid several feet closer to the ground over the winter, opening up a view down to the brook. And it's now, before new growth starts and while small brush is compressed by lingering snow, that I get a good look at the shape of the land, discern the elements of the site, and envision new possibilities.

This month, two authors give us views of sites they've worked on recently - one from the design perspective, the other from construction. Another author offers insight into the secret life of mason bees, and we have a review of The Solar Greenhouse, just in time for the ELA eco-tour to the author's home in a few weeks. So take a few minutes to enjoy the Newsletter as well as the view from your windows before spring cleanup starts in earnest. *MS*

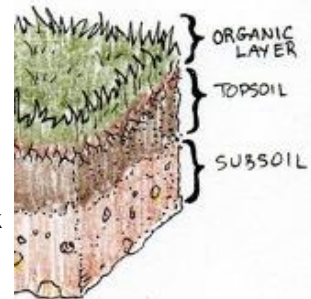
How Site Considerations Drive Landscape Design by Lauren Lautner

I am typically introduced to a project over the phone. I love to listen to clients' descriptions of their property as I develop an image in my mind. I often sketch as they speak to me telling me what is working and what is not. I note the adjectives they use when describing their setting. "Hilly, shady, exposed, overgrown," and always, "nothing will grow". Then the fun begins as I ask them what they want. [Read the article](#)



The Dirty Truth - Concepts in mitigating site impacts when using heavy equipment Part 1 Soil and Equipment by Korby Walker

From the cab of even a small 6-ton diesel excavator, every site should look ecologically sensitive. These machines are designed to make a large difference in a short amount of time, so when it comes to changing or creating a landscape, every move counts. [Read the article](#)



The Dirty Truth - Concepts in mitigating site impacts when using heavy equipment Part 2 - Water Management by Walker Korby

As any sandcastle builder knows, you can create the most elaborate shapes and contours with a substrate that has just enough moisture to stick together. But as soon as you add more water, all bets are off. Everyone in the hardscaping business has one or more stories about the sudden, unexpected rain that practically washed their site away before they were finished. [Read the article](#)

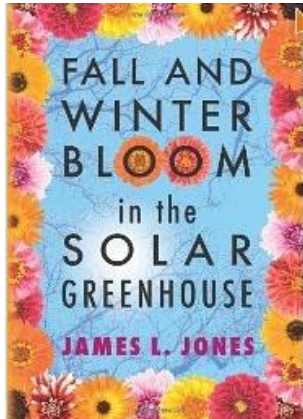




Attract Mason Bees - No Protective Gear Needed

by Judy Beaudette

Few strategies for keeping our environment healthy are as interesting, simple and fun as raising mason bees, tiny insects that are gaining popularity with gardeners and farmers alike. What's more, encouraging wild mason bees to your slice of earth - no matter how small or urban - could help counter negative effects of declining honey bee colonies. [Read the article](#)



Book Review:

Fall and Winter Bloom in the Solar Greenhouse

Written and published by James L. Jones, May 29, 2012

Reviewed by Tricia Diggins

It is hard for me to categorize James Jones's new book *Fall and Winter Bloom in the Solar Greenhouse*. It is basically a gardening book as opposed to a book about ecological landscaping. By a gardening book I mean a book that is geared toward people who love to collect and grow plants for any number of reasons. [Read the review](#)

Join an [ELA Eco-tour](#) of James Jones's solar greenhouse on April 10, 2013.

Gleanings

In October 2012, the Pesticide Action Network has released a new study titled *A Generation in Jeopardy: How pesticides are undermining our children's health & intelligence*. The report looks at numerous worldwide studies of the effects pesticides have on children's health. A pdf of the study is now available to download from the [PAN North America website](#).



The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation announced a quarantine of Berkshire County, MA, beginning March 1 due to the discovery of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Dalton, MA, last summer. [Click here](#) for information about the quarantine. General information is available at www.emeraldashborer.info. To report sightings of any insect pests, pathogens, and invasive plants in Massachusetts, [click here](#). Search the [USDA National Invasive Species Information Center](#) by state for information outside of Massachusetts.



[Eco Cuba Network](#) offers custom-designed research tours of the variable environmental and sustainability initiatives that have evolved in Cuba. Selected as the site of the 2013 International Permaculture Convergence, Cuba offers UNESCO biosphere reserve sites; urban and rural permaculture sites; and a focus on sustainable development and environmental protection.



[Project Native](#), the non-profit horticultural farm and wildlife sanctuary in South Berkshire County, MA, has announced its 3rd Environmental Film Festival. Scheduled for Sunday, April 7, at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, this free festival showcases documentary films that illuminate global issues and actions that affect our shared future. In addition to a selection of kids' films, the following full-length films are scheduled throughout the day: *Bidder 70*, *Bitter Seeds*, *The Carbon Rush*, *People of a Feather*, and *YERT: Your Environmental Road Trip*. Project Native's website lists the most up-to-date [schedule](#).



Help Track Invasive Species in MA

The Invasive Plant Atlas of New England ([IPANE](#)) is the New England data entry portal for the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System ([EDDMapS](#)), a web-based mapping system for documenting invasive plant distribution and management efforts. The Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG) encourages citizens and land managers to enter invasive plant data into IPANE, and "Early Detection" priority species listed by [MA Invasive Plant Advisory Group](#) in particular, so that we can get a better understanding of the distribution of invasive species and be more strategic in our management efforts. The IPANE data entry form can be found at the IPANE or EDDMapS websites or data can also be entered by using one of two smart phone apps: [the IPANE app](#) or the Outsmart Invasives app. On April 8th, IPANE and MIPAG are holding a training webinar from 1:00-2:00pm. [Click to register](#). If you need more information, email ipane.uconn@gmail.com.



The Ecological Landscaping Association Wants You!

ELA always welcomes motivated, energetic individuals who support ELA's mission and purpose to join us in developing and administering the programs and initiatives of the organization. Our past success and the ability to improve and expand ELA in the future depend on the support and involvement of many people. Your interests, enthusiasm and talents may be just what are needed. Whether you serve on the Board of Directors or a standing committee, or volunteer for a short-term project, you can be a vital part of the organization. Getting involved is as simple as calling us at (617) 436-5838, or sending an email to ela.info@comcast.net. Let us know how and when to reach you, and we will get in touch.



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

[Adapting to a Changing Climate](#) - The Native Plant Center's 2013 Spring Landscape Conference; Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY; March 18, 8:30am-3:30pm (snow date March 22).
[Superfund Redevelopment Initiative: Ecological Revitalization of Contaminated Properties](#) (webinar); March 19, 2:00-4:00pm, EDT.
[Seven Habits of Highly Effective Tree Boards](#) - UVM SOUL Tree Steward Webinar; March 20, 5:00-6:00pm, EDT.
[Permaculture Design Certificate Training](#); San Francisco and Bay Area, CA; March 20.
[Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting](#); Crowne Plaza Hotel, Southbury, CT; March 21, 8:15am-4:30pm.
[2013 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; March 23.
[Designing with Native Plants](#); Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, MA; March 24, 2:00pm.
[Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Milford, MA; March 26, 9:00am-3:00pm.
[Lakeshore Neighborhood Plant Exchange](#); 3811 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland, CA; March 30, noon-4:00pm.
[Protecting Your Valuable Trees](#); Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA; April 2, 10:00am-noon.
[IPANE & EDDMapS Webinar on Documenting Invasive Plant Distribution](#); April 2, 1:00-2:00pm.
[Landscape Design with the Climate in Mind](#); Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; April 3, 7:00pm.
[Invasive Pest Update](#) - UMass Extension; Publick House, Sturbridge, MA; April 3, 9:00am-1:00pm.
[Watergardens: The Voice of Our Landscape](#); Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA; April 4, 6:30-8:30pm.
[Fall and Winter Bloom in the Solar Greenhouse](#); Lexington, MA; April 10, 10:00am-noon.
[Community Gravel Beds for Bare Root Planting](#) - UVM SOUL Tree Steward Webinar; April 17, 5:00-6:00pm.
[Beautiful No-Mow Yards Featuring Eastern Natives](#); Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster, MA; April 21, 2:00pm.

Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History; Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA; April 28, 1:30-3:30pm.

Mycorrhizal Symbioses and the Functioning of Terrestrial Ecosystems; Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA; April 30, 10:00am-noon.

MA State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management; DoubleTree Hotel, Milford, MA; May 1, 9:00am-3:30pm.

Go Botany! Plant ID for the 21st Century; Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA; May 1, 7:00pm.

2nd Annual MA Trails Conference; Devens Common Center, Devens, MA; May 4.

Festival Floralia 2013; Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, Cambridge, MA; May 5, 2:00-4:30pm.



Fertrell
Natural & Organic
Fertilizers
Bainbridge, PA 17502 • 800-347-1566 • www.fertrell.com



*Helping Plants, Soil & Animals
Grow Naturally Since 1946.*

As easy as...

NorthCreek
NURSERIES



Landscape Plugs™ *The Sustainable Solution*

Innovative engineered soils
for functional landscapes.

www.readcustomsoils.com



read custom soils
AN A. D. MAKEPEACE COMPANY

800.924.5335



NEW 2013!
ADIOS



**An EPA Exempt
Natural,
Selective
Post-Emergent
for Weeds.**

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