

The *ecological landscaper*

The Newsletter of the Ecological Landscaping Association

Vol. 16, No. 3

Fall 2009

Working with Nature in the Built Environment

FROM THE EDITOR

• Kat Good-Schiff

One of our core beliefs as the Ecological Landscaping Association is that natural systems are the best guide for learning how to develop and maintain healthy landscapes. This applies not only to rural, suburban, or large-scale landscapes, but also to more densely populated urban landscapes as well.

Ecological landscaping for the urban, built environment requires observation, flexibility, and “working with what you’ve got.” From greywater irrigation, to urban gardens and floating urban farms, to xeriscaping in the southwestern desert, the articles in this issue demonstrate inventive, efficient, and beautiful methods for working with nature in the midst of the built environment.

Although we love wilderness and expansive landscapes, the urban landscape is a more familiar reality for many people. According to the Population Reference Bureau, developed nations are about 74% urban, and less

developed nations are tending in that direction. If we are interested in true sustainability, our built landscapes need to become a lot greener. In these pages, you will find many ideas for moving closer to that goal.

Farewell and Thank You!

The ELA Board of Directors would like to say “Farewell” to Kat Good-Schiff as she leaves *The Ecological Landscaper*. Thank you, Kat, for your ideas and all of your help as our newsletter editor. We wish you all the best.

THE NEW URBAN LANDSCAPE: NEW YORK CITY’S HIGH LINE PROJECT

- Text by Penny Lewis, ELA Executive Director
- Photos by Risa Edelstein, www.gardenandthegoodlife.com

This summer, a new public park opened in New York City that redefines the urban landscape. The park occupies a former 1.45 mile stretch of rail elevated 30’ above the street on the West Side of Manhattan. The rail served as a freight line for New York’s meat packing district from 1934 to 1980. For nearly three decades, this abandoned stretch of rail was an overgrown repository for unwanted debris.

Plans were underway to demolish this eyesore when neighborhood residents founded Friends of the High Line in 1999. This nonprofit group formed with the mission of preserving the historic structure and transforming the abandoned railway into a public park. The group’s ef-

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Also send all other ELA business, including address changes, to the address listed above.

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HIGH LINE continued from page 1

forts were successful and city officials halted plans for the costly demolition. Working through the Federal "rail-banking" process allowed the Friends of the High Line to preserve the rights-of-way along the abandoned railway for future public use.

The High Line project construction began in 2006 with the removal of all existing surface material to expose the steel and concrete structure. After structural repairs were made to the steel and concrete, new drainage and water-



Abandoned elevated railway from the top

proofing was installed in preparation for the park construction.

After a lengthy design competition, the design for the High Line was



Abandoned elevated railway from below

awarded to James Corner Field Operations, a landscape architecture firm, and Diller Scofidio & Renfro, an architectural firm. These firms were assisted by a large team of horticulture, lighting, art, engineering, and maintenance specialists. Landscape design was led by well-known designer and author Piet Oudolf.

In the landscape of the High Line, the original elevated railway structure is combined with more traditional park elements such as water features, gardens, and public areas for performance, art exhibitions, and education.

To maintain a connection to the past, many of the rails were preserved and incorporated into the design of the High Line.

Before construction began, plant inventories were taken to determine what plants had self-seeded and were surviving in the abandoned railway. With this plant inventory in mind, a strong emphasis was placed on the use of hardy perennials and grasses.

Most plants used in the design are native, and 161 out of the 210 species are native to the state of New York. The installations



Hardy perennials frame the view of the skyline.

HIGH LINE continued on page 3



Rails reintroduced into planting design



Native perennials and grasses dominate the plant palette



Protecting the new plantings



Relaxing above the busy streets of New York

successful establishment of the new plantings and to ensure less ongoing damage and maintenance. To encourage staying on the paths, the rules also prohibit Frisbees, balls, or “moving objects” of any kind.

Although the rules seem limiting at first glance, there are many ways to enjoy the park and escape from the fast-paced New York City life in the streets below. Relaxation areas include a variety of benches and chaise lounges, many installed on large wheels along the rails.

The seating installations encourage reading, napping, and people-watching but they have generated some negative reactions as well. Consistent with most New York City waterfront parks, all of the benches and chaise lounges are constructed from ipê wood, a non-sustainable wood source that is grown only in the Amazon

rainforests. Because the High Line project stressed an ecological message of reuse and recycling since its inception, there has been considerable backlash from the decision to use non-sustainable wood.

However, the High Line is primarily a sustainable, green project. It transformed a huge steel and concrete structure into a public park, avoiding the economic and environmental costs associated with tearing down and disposing of such a structure. The High Line is essentially a large green roof with porous paths that allow water to run into the planting beds, thereby reducing stormwater runoff into the city sewer

often incorporate the old architectural elements and the results are impressive, even as first year plantings.

Section 1 of the High Line (from Gansevoort Street to 20th Street) is now open to the public daily from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Phase 2 (from 20th Street to 30th Street) is scheduled to open in 2010. The High Line (south of 30th Street)

was donated to the City of New York by CSX Transportation and is operated under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation. Similar projects are currently underway in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Jersey City, and Chicago.

The High Line has a few unusual rules for a public park. Guests are prohibited from walking on the grass and dogs are prohibited from any area in the High Line. Both of these rules are intended to encourage faster, more



Green roof materials and porous pathways provide water conservation.

system. Although there is an irrigation system for supplemental watering while plants are getting established, the planting areas incorporate green roof system elements to allow for maximum water conservation.

With the native plants now beginning to mature, fragrance is a new aspect of the park taking its place along with the sights and sounds of the High Line. A mysterious scent generated quite a buzz for a few weeks and was finally been identified as prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*). This 2' native bunchgrass has a gentle arch-



Prairie dropseed adds fragrance to a late summer afternoon.

ing habit and is well known for its late summer seed heads and unique fragrance.

Above the busy streets of New York, the new urban landscape has been redefined by the High Line. It provides unique views of the Hudson River and the New York City skyline and is a sustainable model for industrial infrastructure reuse for other cities around the world. Landscape designer Risa Edelstein sums up the High Line perfectly: “The High Line is spectacular. It is everything a garden should be—beautiful, inspirational, functional, artistic, and a great example of sustainable landscaping.”

For more information, visit www.thehighline.org.



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PEST ALERT:

MILE-A-MINUTE VINE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*), an invasive vine native to eastern Asia, has been confirmed in two new counties in Massachusetts.

Also known as “devil’s tail” or “Asiatic tear-thumb,” mile-a-minute vine was first discovered in Massachusetts in 2006 in two locations: Falmouth (Barnstable County) and Milton (Norfolk County). Through a multi-agency effort to uncover new populations of this pervasive weed before it becomes established in Massachusetts, mile-a-minute vine was confirmed this past summer in the towns of Greenfield and Erving (Franklin County) and in Littleton (Middlesex County). In addition, a report from Boston in August led state officials to two seedlings that were immediately removed. A survey of the Boston site revealed no other mile-a-minute plants.

The plants found in Greenfield were removed after identification was confirmed, and state officials will continue to monitor the site over the next several years to remove any new seedlings that may be found. The mile-a-minute vine populations in Erving and Littleton are currently being assessed to determine the best way to manage them. The previously known populations of mile-a-minute vine in Milton and Falmouth are being managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, with the goal of eradicating the plants.



Mile-a-minute Vine. Photo Credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Mile-a-minute vine can be recognized by its perfectly triangular leaves, barbed stems, and clusters of metallic-blue berries. If left alone, this vine can quickly cover large areas and smother any plants in its path. Several other vines may be confused with this invasive species, including bindweed, fleece vine, and Asiatic bittersweet. The University of Connecticut offers a comparison of similar species on their website: <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam/similarspecies.html>.

For information about mile-a-minute vine, or to report a potential sighting in MA, visit <http://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/mileamminute.html> or call 617-626-1779.

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NEW YORK CITY'S EDIBLE GARDEN

• Text & photos by Penny Lewis, ELA Executive Director

Interest in edible landscaping has increased dramatically in the past few years. Landscaping guides and how-to books are spilling over with the bounty of the edible landscape. For the most part this trend has been concentrated in suburban and rural gardens, but a well-publicized exhibition at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) helped take this trend to the city.

This year, the NYBG's 250-acre urban landscape featured a summer-long display, *The Edible Garden*. This extensive exhibit demonstrated how landscapes can simultaneously be beautiful and produce great food. From the casual inclusion of a tomato or herb in the midst of a mixed border, to a formal boxwood hedge featuring artichokes, *The Edible Garden* provided a wide array of landscaping ideas.

The exhibition demonstrated how to grow as well as prepare delicious fresh-from-the-garden food. For many urban dwellers, this provided a first opportunity to understand the connection between plants and food. And for experienced gardeners and landscaping professionals, it showcased many innovative examples of how to incorporate edibles into ornamental gardens.

The Edible Audio Tour, narrated by Chef Mario Batali, explained where food comes from and how it gets to the table. Additional displays illustrated the stages of composting and demonstrated the range of composting systems available to urban gardeners.

Through a wide variety of displays and programs, *The Edible Garden* showed the bounty of edible plants, taught vegetable growing techniques, and provided examples of edible garden design.



Edible landscapes in a formal design include parterres of boxwood surrounding a combination of *Salvia officinalis* 'Ickterina' (golden sage) and *Cardoon Scolymus Cardunculus*, Linn. (cardoon)—a cousin of the artichoke.



At the entrance to the NYBG edible display, this combination whets the appetite—featuring the edible blossoms of nasturtium, parsley, dwarf artichoke, and the distinctive chartreuse foliage of ornamental sweet potato.

For more ideas and information, try this tasty sampling of books on edible landscaping:

- *Gaia's Garden, Second Edition: A Guide To Home-Scale Permaculture* by Toby Hemenway *Look for a review of this book in the next edition of *The Ecological Landscaper*.
- *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping: Home Landscaping with Food-Bearing Plants and Resource-Saving Techniques* by Rosalind Creasy
- *Food Not Lawns: How to Turn Your Yard into a Garden and Your Neighborhood into a Community* by Heather Coburn Flores
- *Landscaping With Fruit: (A Homeowners Guide)* by Lee Reich
- *Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally* by Robert Kourik
- *Forest Gardening: Cultivating an Edible Landscape* by Robert Hart
- *Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn* by Fritz Haeg



Scarlet runner beans provide beautiful blossoms, edible beans, and a desirable vertical dimension.

THE SCIENCE BARGE DEMONSTRATES URBAN AGRICULTURE



Photo courtesy NY Sun Works

Groundwork Hudson Valley is excited to have acquired The Science Barge, a prototype, sustainable urban farm and environmental education center designed by NY Sun Works. The Science Barge grows vegetables with zero net carbon emissions, zero chemical pesticides, and zero runoff. It is now docked in downtown Yonkers, NY.

The Science Barge is powered by solar, wind, and biofuels, and irrigated by rainwater and purified river water. Using a recirculation greenhouse hydroponics system, the Barge grows tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, and peppers. The Barge intends to demonstrate that growing

food locally in the city is good for city residents and good for the environment. In a world of climate change, rapid urbanization, and increasing pollution, urban agriculture can help us live more sustainably.

The Science Barge is now open for educational programming and public tours. If you are interested in signing up for a tour or educational program, contact devon@groundworkhv.org. The Barge is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 12-6pm. Visit <http://ny-sunworks.org/> for more information.

GREEN ALLIANCE PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS BUSINESSES, EDUCATES PUBLIC IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AREA

The Green Alliance grew out of a practical partnership of community environmental advocates and green business owners. Founding businesses Simply Green Biofuels and Purely Organic Lawn Care were trying to break into markets dominated by fossil fuels and toxic herbicides and pesticides, when they realized that an alliance might bring more tangible results. The owners of Simply Green and Purely Organic knew that residents of New Hampshire's Seacoast region who used biofuel were probably interested in organic lawn care as well, and vice versa. Soon each company began offering mutual discounts and sharing best business practices and marketing techniques.

At the same time, community activist Sarah Brown

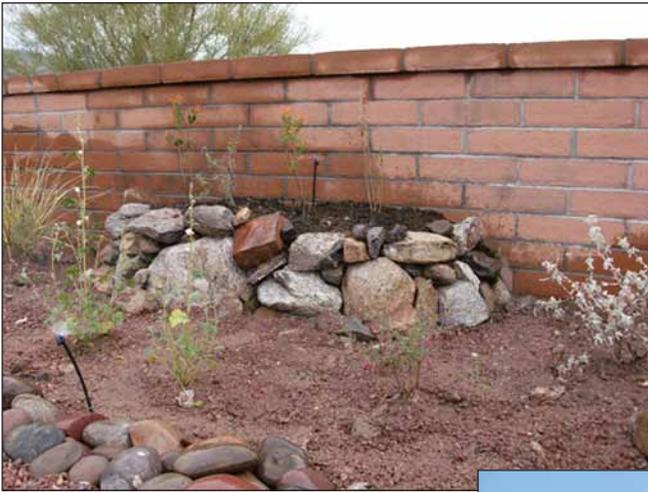


was working in the Seacoast area on environmental issues, specifically individual energy use and personal environmental impact. As her advocacy widened to include towns and business, Brown saw that some businesses were leading the way in sustainability. Eventually the Green Alliance was formed to make consumers aware of environmentally conscious local businesses and to encourage additional businesses to “go green.” The Green Alliance is focused on educating and encouraging the public to think more about the goods and services they use in their communities and to encourage more sustainable choices.

The Green Alliance is currently made up of 63 green Business Partners in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts as well as 600 consumer co-op members, or Green Card holders. Their newsletter circulation is 10,000 strong and growing. It all began with a small organic lawn care company—and a lot of motivation. To learn more or to join the alliance, visit them at www.greenalliance.biz.

**MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
DENNIS PEPE OF GREENFIRE ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING**

In the scorching desert region of Tucson, Arizona, ELA member Dennis Pepe is making a difference in the lives and landscapes of his customers.



Client garden "before"

ELA: *What ecological principles drive your landscaping business and what challenges does your location introduce?*

Pepe: Landscaping in the southwestern desert has its challenges for sure. For instance, most of my customers come from eastern states and are fleeing the cold winters. Once settled here, they immediately miss all the greenery of the east and try to recreate it with nursery-bought, non-native plants. Then they get their water bills. Even with all the water, the plants have a hard time surviving our scorching hot summers. Most people end up with yards full of decorative rock and a few non-native plants that require large amounts of water and do nothing to attract wildlife.

Fortunately, most of our eastern transplant customers also love birds. That's where an ecological landscaper comes in handy. It's a pretty easy sell when I tell customers that I can attract birds, hummingbirds, and butterflies right into their yard *and* save them money on maintenance and water.

By employing native plants, a proper and well-maintained drip irrigation system, and organic mulches that keep soils cool and moist, we are able to create landscapes that are more lush and show more color throughout the

year. And, of course, native plants are those that our wildlife has evolved with, so the benefit is two-fold.

ELA: *How do you convince your "transplant" customers to change their expectations and landscapes?*

Pepe: It takes time and education for most folks to digest these basic ideas. That's why I came up with the **10% for Wildlife** idea. If a majority of people devote just 10% of their landscape to wildlife, we can attract the native and migratory birds that they drive out of town to see—right back into their yards.



Client garden "after"

ELA: *Do you have examples of how you transition your customers' landscapes?*

Pepe: Yes. In one instance, I worked with homeowners who came to Arizona from Wisconsin. They bought a house with a yard that was covered by decorative rock and planted with the standard plants just like every other house on the street.

When I learned that these people loved the desert and wildlife, we decided to devote the back of their property to wildlife habitat. Before I even got the plants into the ground, they were being visited by hummingbirds and butterflies.

..... [MEMBERS continued on page 9](#)



Client garden "before"

My favorite thing about being an ecological landscaper in the desert is educating people on the importance of considering the overall ecosystem as they consider their landscape plans. As soon as they do, their decision-making becomes easier and, as a result, the entire desert ecosystem becomes healthier, one yard at a time.



Client garden "after"

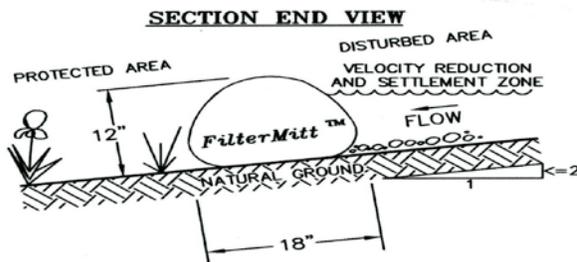


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INVENTOR TAKES ON WATER PURIFICATION CHALLENGE

• Kat Good-Schiff

According to the United Nations, one in six people lives without regular access to safe drinking water, and more than twice that many do not have access to adequate sanitation. Inventor Dean Kamen, best known for the Segway scooter, has taken on the challenge of creating a water purification system that is easy to use and does not use much energy to run.

The result is the Slingshot, a vapor compression distiller that stands between two tanks connected by hoses. The washing-machine-size device produces 10 gallons of clean water per hour using only 500 watts of electricity. It uses heat to distill water: boiling it, condensing it, and recycling the energy.

In an interview with CNN, Kamen explained the machine's name. "We believe the world needs a slingshot to take care of its Goliath of a problem in water. So we decided to build a small machine and give it to the little Davids."

According to *Newsweek*, Kamen got the idea for the Slingshot almost by accident. He had been working on a Stirling-cycle electric generator intended for use in developing countries. This machine generates electricity using cow dung as fuel. The generator had a problem, which was that it gave off too much waste heat.

In looking for ways to use the waste heat from the generator, Kamen developed plans for the Slingshot. The idea is that the two could be used together, since many areas that lack adequate drinking water are also in need of electricity.

At the moment, each machine has to be custom made, so they are still quite expensive.



Dean Kamen debuts his generator and purifier. Photo courtesy www.treehugger.com.

Kamen is hoping to get investors and non-governmental organizations interested in his inventions so that production can be streamlined and the price can come down.

"It is literally like turning lead into gold," Kamen told CNN. "But I believe it's more important, because you can't drink lead or gold."

Watch Dean Kamen describe his invention on the Colbert Report at:

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/164485/march-20-2008/dean-kamen>

GREYWATER TRAINING INITIATIVE ADDRESSES CA WATER SHORTAGE

The simplification of greywater permitting requirements, coupled with irrigation water restrictions and increasing residential water rates throughout the Monterey Bay area, has created a surge of interest in greywater systems that divert laundry, bathroom sink, and shower water for landscape irrigation. Since trained greywater technicians will be needed to meet new demand for greywater irrigation systems, Ecology Action of Santa Cruz has proposed an innovative Greywater Design, Installation and Maintenance Certification (GDIMC) program that will target green workforce training and employment opportunities in the landscape maintenance and plumbing industries.

The GDIMC curriculum will be modeled after a curriculum currently being developed and piloted by the Greywater Guerillas via CACTUS (Community Alliance for Career Training and Utility Solutions). The curriculum will be reviewed and standardized by a statewide technical advisory council, and the California Landscape Contractors Association will be an active participant in its development.

The GDIMC curriculum will provide practical field experience resulting in the installation of at least one residential greywater irrigation system in each sponsoring water agency's jurisdiction during the training. Evening lectures will be offered at participating adult school or community college locations. The goal is to train and certify 50 individuals in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties by July 2010 and place 75% of graduates in greywater retrofit work.

For more information, visit

CACTUS: <http://www.greencactus.org>

CLCA Water Management Certification program:
<http://clca.us/water/>

Monterey Bay Green Gardener Certification program:
www.green-gardener.org



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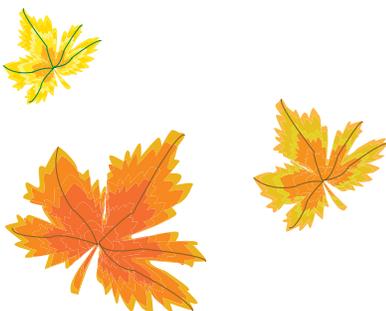
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ELA Expands Readership of the Ecological Landscaper

Environmental concerns have moved into the mainstream over the past few years. The public has shown a heightened awareness of environmental issues in general, and specifically an awareness of the importance of environmentally sensitive and safe landscaping options. As more homeowners and businesses seek advice to help them transition to environmentally safer choices, ELA is positioned to connect them with landscape professionals who promote an ecological view.

As ELA works to connect potential clients with our ELA professional members, we are increasing our outreach efforts to connect with and to educate the public. Toward that end, **The Ecological Landscaper will be available for free through a new ELA Blog.** We are enthusiastic about the opportunities this new distribution format will offer for advancing our mission.

ELA members will soon receive additional information about the transition to the Blog. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we explore new ways to spread our ecological message.



LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT: SMALL URBAN COMMUNITY LEADS THE WAY

• Paul Lauenstein

The Planning Board in the small urban community of Sharon, Massachusetts, is leading the way toward Low Impact Development with its recent subdivision decision (Bella Estates Conservation Subdivision Design). As many municipalities discuss and debate the pros and cons of landscape related regulation, Sharon has approved a plan that could serve as a model for other policy makers.

Included in the 20-page decision are the following key landscape related features:

- no lawn irrigation systems
- minimum 6" of loam with minimum 4% organic content to hold moisture
- deep-rooted, drought-tolerant grass
- maximum of 5,000 square feet of lawn per lot
- three rain gardens
- three tree boxes
- drought-tolerant native plantings
- crowned driveways to shed stormwater onto adjacent lawn areas
- professional landscaping plan designed to buffer the development from abutters
- hiking trail, including signage and public parking at the trail head
- over 10 acres of open space (about 50% of the parcel) deeded to the municipality

Water quality and availability is a high priority in most parts of the country and many of these measures address those concerns by helping to reduce water use and to filter out pollutants that might otherwise reach wetlands and watersheds.

As the move toward Low Impact Development (LID) continues, more and more municipalities will be reviewing their policies that relate to the landscape and will be looking to early adopters such as Sharon, Massachusetts.

For more information about this subdivision decision, please contact: Paul Lauenstein, Chairman, Sharon Planning Board, 4 Gavins Pond Road, Sharon, MA 02067, 781-784-2986.

events

Permaculture Design Course

Beaver Lodge Environmental Learning Center, Shelburne Falls, MA

Class meets October 9-11, November 20-22, January 15-17, March 12-14, and April 23-25, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

Course fee of \$1200 includes gourmet "locavore" lunches, course materials, and textbook. On-site lodging and breakfast \$70/night.

For more information contact Marie Stella at (413) 625-2009 or kirinfarminc@aol.com.

Green Business Camp

October 22, 2009

The UnConference for Green Business Growth and Collaboration, Santa Cruz, CA

Visit GreenBusinessSantaCruz.com for details

Bioneers by the Bay: Connecting for Change

October 23-25, 2009

Presented by the Marion Institute
New Bedford, MA

For more information and to register, go to www.connectingforchange.org or call 508-748-0816.

International Climate Action Day Saturday, October 24th, 2009

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International Erosion Control Association, Northeast Chapter Annual Conference and Trade Exposition

October 27-28, 2009

Hartford Hilton, 315 Trumbull St., Hartford, CT

For more information, visit www.ieca-necchapter.org/nec09.html or email Steve Trinkaus at strinkaus@earthlink.net.

Maine Coastal Waters Conference

October 28, 2009

Point Lookout Resort & Conference Center, Northport, ME

For more information, visit www.coastalwaters2009.com

EVENTS continued on page 13

Registration required. Call 860-439-5060 or visit <http://arboretum.conncoll.edu>.

events cont'd

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SSI) announced an upcoming call for pilot projects that will test the first national rating system for sustainable landscapes.

November 5, 2009

The SSI is a partnership between the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden. ELA has been partnering with SSI during its development of the new standards. More information at http://www.publicgardens.org/web/2009/09/the_sustainable_sites_initiative.aspx

Stormwater in New England

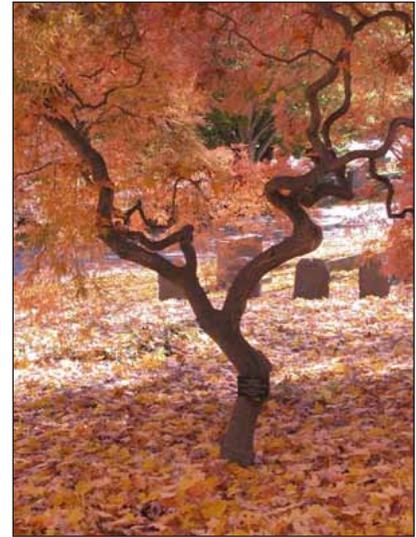
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Going Native in New England

The Annual SALT Seminar (Smaller American Lawns Today)
November 7, 2009

Connecticut College, New London, CT



The Gardens at Mount Auburn Cemetery: A Guided, Ecological Walking Tour

Sponsored by the Ecological Landscaping Association (ELA)
November 7, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

\$10.00 (ELA Member) or \$15 (Non-Member)
\$10.00 (Groups of five or more)

Join Dennis Collins, Horticultural Curator, and Paul Kwiatkowski, Staff Conservationist and Assistant Greenhouse Manager, for a unique "Eco" tour of this beautiful 175-acre landscape. These historical gardens are on the leading edge of sustainable and environmentally sound land care practices. Get professional information on the ecological methods used to maintain the 5,000 trees and thousands of shrubs and herbaceous plants. Registration is limited—register online at www.ecolandscaping.org/other_events.html.

Northeast Biochar Symposium

November 13, 2009

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
Get the latest information on biochar production and utilization from leading researchers in academia, government agencies, agriculture, and manufacturing. Learn about carbon sequestration, soil fertility, agriculture, renewable energy, job creation, and community sustainability. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.nsm.umass.edu/biochar09/>, email Biochar09@nsm.umass.edu, or call 978-425-0101.

UMass International Winter School for Turf Managers

Registration deadline **November 15, 2009**

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
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We're All Climate Activists Now!

Eighth Annual MCAN Conference brings together more than 300 residents, community organizers, scientists, and local government staff to act on global warming.

When: **Sunday, November 15, 2009, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Where: Stata Center, MIT, 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA BOSTON, MA, September 28, 2009—Every resident of Massachusetts (and our planet) needs to take rapid and significant action on the global warming crisis that threatens us all. For eight years MCAN's annual climate action conference has given hundreds of residents and others the tools to lead a community-based fight to deal with

climate change. This year's event, at MIT's Stata Center on November 15, will feature 15 solution-focused workshops and opportunities for participants to present their own fresh ideas. Keynote speakers will include Gina McCarthy, the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information: <http://massclimateaction.net/conference/2009-conference.html>

2010 Annual Spring Landscape Conference

March 15, 2010

The Native Plant Center, Valhalla, NY

Topics and Speakers TBA

For additional details, visit www.nativeplantcenter.org or call 914-606-7870.



ELA's 2008 Annual Meeting & Summer Roundtable

The August 12, 2009 ELA Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to celebrate another successful year

as a leader in environmental education and stewardship. In addition to the annual business meeting, a Summer Roundtable entitled "Fertilizers and Soil Amendments - What's your favorite recipe?" was held.

ELA founders, M.L. Altobelli and Mike Talbot were joined by Roger Sturgis in a panel discussion which provided an amazing depth and breadth of information on their soil management practices. ELA founder, Sue Storer, moderated the event.

A special "thank you" to Mike and George from Ocean Organics and Fred and Neil from PJC Ecological who exhibited their products and contributed many interesting points to the discussion.

Thanks to Penny Lewis, Andrea Knowles and Kathy Sargent-O'Neill for helping to organize this year's event at the beautiful Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in Boylston, Massachusetts, www.towerhillbg.org

2009 Ballot Results

The slate of ELA officers for the upcoming year is: Dennis Collins, President; Kathy Sargent-O'Neill, Vice-President; Chris O'Brien, Treasurer; and Sue Storer, Secretary.

Incumbent Board members elected to serve a new term: Bruce Wenning. Incumbent Board members serving existing terms: M.L. Altobelli, Dennis Collins, Jordan Hall, William Jewell, Andrea Knowles, Robert Levite, Chris O'Brien, Kathy Sargent-O'Neill, Trevor Smith, Sue Storer, and Maureen Sundberg.

Newly elected Board members: Starlet Braden, Risa Edelstein, Michelle Lehouillier, and Lillabeth Wies.

The Ecological Landscaping Association's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that **Penny Lewis**, our current staff member, has accepted a leadership position as ELA's first Executive Director.

Penny joined ELA as the Executive Assistant in 2006. Her experience in this position and her enthusiasm and support of ELA over the past three years assures that the day-to-day operation of the organization as well as the overall strategic leadership for the organization will be well met.

Serving as Executive Director, the Board of Directors believes that Penny's wealth of knowledge and diverse skills will serve her well. We expect her to play a pivotal role in the development and execution of all ELA policy and strategic initiatives in the future.

**Please join us in
welcoming Penny as our new
Executive Director.**

