



As we get ready to welcome the onset of spring, Didona Associates is busy spreading the word about Sustainability - green buildings, green roofs and green products. Green *thinking* has begun to capture the public's imagination, as well as the efforts of green designers, landscape architects and developers.

What can we do to limit our impacts on the land and yet still create functional, aesthetically pleasing spaces? In fact, there are a number of sustainability tools available to the responsible design team.

Take stormwater, for instance. When you think of stormwater, you normally think of water running down paved roads, collecting in catch basins and pipes, and being discharged into nearby watercourses (and eventually Long Island Sound, if you live in Connecticut). Jane Didona, Principal of Didona Associates, will give two upcoming presentations in which she talks about *alternatives* to this traditional (and in many ways outdated) approach to stormwater:

### **Beauty and the Wet Pond Stormwater Management Practice**

at the 7th Annual Design & Trades Conference

March 20, 2008

8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Cromwell, CT

Stormwater management practices are important to the health of our watersheds because they provide opportunities for infiltration and removal of pollutants. One common practice, the wet pond, is a visible landscape element with an open water component. Studies have shown that if these ponds are designed and sited correctly, their value to the community is expanded; yet so often, appearance and aesthetics are considered secondary factors.

At this conference, sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Jane Didona will discuss the topic of "Beauty and the Wet Pond Stormwater Management Practice." How can a wet pond be designed to be more than a mere detention basis for stormwater runoff? Can visual elements be incorporated into the design to contribute to its scenic beauty and create a preferred water landscape benefiting the community?

Come hear the results of Jane's research on this topic, which formed the basis of her recent Master's degree thesis.

To register for the conference, or for more information, see [www.ct.gov/dps](http://www.ct.gov/dps) and click on Education & Data Management.

**How to get there:** The Crowne Plaza Hotel is easy to get to from I-91 North or South. Take Exit 21 (Route 372) and turn left at the end of the exit. The hotel will be on your left.

### **Rain Gardens**

Thursday, March 27

6:30-8:00 p.m.

at The Bartlett Arboretum

Stamford, CT

As part of the Bartlett's series of programs and classes to help us all "think globally and act locally" and discover great ways to green our lives, Jane will present a workshop about *rain gardens*.

Rain gardens are an innovative way to reduce stormwater runoff while simultaneously creating alluring landscape features that *take advantage* of water diverted and used on site. Rain gardens are the happy union of sustainable practices and new landscape aesthetics, and are one of the fastest growing areas of interest for homeowners. Jane will discuss how horticulture and water management can be integrated to create vivid landscape elements while reducing impacts on the environment.



To register, call (203) 322-6971. If your schedule allows, arrive a little early and **take a refreshing stroll** before the program. The grounds at The Bartlett encompass more than 90 acres, which include lawns and formal gardens, 10 hiking trails, a 7-acre Red Maple Wetland with a boardwalk, a pond and a 3-acre wildflower meadow. Find a map of the Arboretum grounds here: <http://bartlett.arboretum.uconn.edu/new/map.html>

**How to get there:** The Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens is located at 151 Brookdale Road in Stamford, Connecticut, just 1.5 miles north of the Merritt Parkway and 6 miles from downtown Stamford. For directions, see <http://bartlett.arboretum.uconn.edu/new/directions.html>.

We hope to see you at these events and please visit our website at [www.didonaassociates.com](http://www.didonaassociates.com)