

ARAIYS NEWS

WINTER NEWS LETTER 2015

ARAIYS DESIGN

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Winter Solstice occurs on Tuesday, December 22. Solstice is derived from the latin words sol (sun) and sistere (stand still). It marks the apparent still point where the sun stops getting lower in the sky, and the days begin to grow longer.

Welcome to our Winter Solstice newsletter. Araiys Design is excited to advance sustainable site development and good land stewardship practices. To that end, we make it a priority to stay current with best management practices and scientific research so that we can better serve our clients and ultimately create healthier functioning landscapes. This newsletter highlights a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) project in the Town of Brookhaven where we have created a design for a 12 acre mixed-use site that promotes a compact, walkable, mixed-use community located within walking distance to a LIRR station. (Please see page 2 for more details). We are also taking a closer look at pesticides commonly used in the landscape. We highlight a form of pesticide called Neonicotinoids (neonics) that have been linked to adverse ecological effects including honey bee colony collapse disorder and bird species reduction. Please read below for more information.

Happy Holidays! Araiys Design wishes you and your family all the best during this holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

WE ARE TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT PESTICIDES: NEONICOTINOIDS

Neonicotinoids, also known as neonics, are a class of neuro-active insecticides that are chemically similar to nicotine. Neonics are taken up by the plants vascular system and expressed throughout the plants stems, leaves, flowers and fruit. These pesticides can be applied as a hard coat on the seeds before they are planted or sprayed directly on to the plant. The EPA is reviewing the dockets for neonics and is set to be finished in 2018.

Neonics use is linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder (CCD) and loss of birds due to a reduction in insect populations. Neonics kill bees by attacking their nervous system, but even low levels of exposure can damage navigation, disrupt learning, communication, memory and reduce fecundity and queen production.

Since 2006, a major drop of bees and bumble bees has occurred and neonics plays a large role in this change. Why are bees and other pollinators so important to the environment? Because approximately 80% of all flowering plants are pollinated by animals and around 30% of all food relies on bee pollination. The environmental and economical impact of the reduction of bees is enormous. Honey bees are not native to the US and can be bred but native pollinator like butterflies and bumble bees does not have the same support. How can we help the reproduction of bees and other pollinating animals? By having insect safe gardens and landscapes where bee-safe plants are used that can provide them with a fresh source of water that is not contaminated with pesticides. By designing landscapes and gardens properly, with the right plants and seeding stock, you will rarely need insecticides to maintain your garden.

Araiys Design takes this into consideration as a part of our ongoing effort to help conserve the environment.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS | SITE PLANNERS | DEVELOPMENT STRATEGISTS

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NATIVE PLANT OF THE SEASON: 'WINTER RED' WINTERBERRY



Winter Red winterberries in snow | Cedar Waxwing on Winterberry

Common Name: 'Winter Red' Winterberry
Scientific Name: *Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Red'
Size: 6'-8' tall x 6'-8' wide

Winterberry is a deciduous holly native to our region. 'Winter Red' is a female winterberry cultivar that typically matures to 6-8' tall. The leaves of Winterberries are thick and dark green and contrast well with the red fruit. Bright red berries will persist throughout the winter and often into early spring. Berries provide considerable impact and interest to the winter landscape. The fruiting branches are great for decoration in the garden or inside the house.

NATIVE PLANT OF THE SEASON: AMERICAN HOLLY



American Holly in snow

Common Name: American Holly
Scientific Name: *Ilex opaca*
Size: 15'-30' tall x 10'-20' wide

Ilex opaca is an upright, pyramidal, evergreen tree that is native to the eastern and central U.S. It keeps its foliage year-round and adds visual interest and beauty to landscaping. This is the Christmas holly whose berry-laden boughs are typically collected at Christmas time each year for ornamentation. Bright red or orange fruits are attractive and a good winter food source for birds. The dense evergreen foliage provides cover and nesting habitat for various songbirds.

NORTH BELLPORT [A TRANSPORTATION-ORIENTED-DEVELOPMENT]

A 3-parcel project with an aggregate area of approximately 12 acres. The Main Street parcels are 2 & 3-story mixed-use buildings with apartments above the ground floor commercial stores. Although the area has been economically and socially depressed for decades, the project will provide a much needed economic stimulus, providing employment, housing, shopping and recreation, all with access to mass transit. The project provides for new street and road improvements including street lights, street trees, benches and a gateway fountain, coupled with a mix of Colonial and Spanish Architecture. Proposed on-street parking will provide easy-access for shoppers with the majority of parking hidden behind, to help reinforce the 'traditional American streetscape experience'.

In developing the project, Araiys Design avoided the Big-box type formula, consequently the project is locally oriented and culturally inspired, energized through numerous civic meetings and presentations.

The transition to the adjacent proposed multi-family development offers a pleasant, pedestrian-oriented-experience where people can live-work-play. The design & planning of this project by Araiys Design is aligned with the principles of 'Smart-Growth', 'New Urbanism' and 'Complete Streets' as a departure from the typical strip-center developments that do not support, inspire or create a 'Sense of Place or Community'.

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