



**“Advocating for responsible stewardship
of land and natural resources in
landscaping and horticultural practices.”**

April 2017

Urban gardens are the focus of this month's newsletter with a look at the challenges and rewards of creating beautiful ecological landscapes in small spaces. We also share an article about biophilic design concepts, and our Eco-pros weigh in with insights on supporting pollinators in the urban landscape.

Be sure to find information in [ELA News](#) about signing up to showcase one of your ecological projects on the first ELA Garden Tour. Limited to Massachusetts' gardens this year, ELA hopes to make the tour an annual event and to include additional states in the future.

If you don't yet have gardens to feature on the tour, save the afternoon of Saturday, June 24 to attend the tour and visit native plant gardens all around Massachusetts. In addition to the Garden Tour, there is a new lineup of [Eco-Tours](#) scheduled this season. ELA's on-site explorations with narration by one or more of the professionals involved are great sources of inspiration and the perfect way to enjoy a warm spring day. *MS*



Small Urban Gardens: Big Challenges, Greater Rewards

by Carol Spitzer

Designing for small urban properties is equal parts challenging and fun. Bound by lists of challenges ranging from too much asphalt to too little privacy, learn about two projects that transformed the clients' urban backyards. [Read the article.](#)



We're in a Tight Spot - Landscape Design for Small Urban Spaces

by Amy Nyman

Cities are places of condensed layers of people, vehicles, and building materials. We also find plants in the city, but too often intentionally designed landscapes and interesting plant materials are absent. Explore the many considerations and suggestions for approaching a small urban landscape. [Read the article.](#)



Biophilic Design Is Coming to a Building near You

by Rebecca Lindenmeyr

The realization that nature can heal us is hardly new, but recent research has shown just how much we benefit from its close proximity. Now landscape designers are looking at ways to incorporate biophilic concepts into sustainable landscape design. [Read the article.](#)

Eco-Answers from the Pros

ELA members have spent hundreds of hours learning the best ecological solutions to problems in the landscape. You can benefit from all that accumulated knowledge by posing a question to our experts. If you are stumped by a problem in your landscape or are looking for a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's Eco-Pros. Send your question to ela_new@verizon.net. And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of [ELA Professionals](#).



Urban Pollinators

I work on a golf course in the middle of a city, (Newark, NJ). I am always looking to put in natural areas and promote pollinator plants. My question is more with regard to bees. Does it make sense to have an all-out pollinator area in the middle of the city where there are no nearby farms/nurseries for the bees to go to? [Read the Pros' Answers](#).



Mason Bees

The mason bees filled most of the tubes in the house this spring, and the ends were sealed with the mud. Now in August, the mud seal is gone and the tubes are empty. I know it is too early for the young bees to emerge. Would a predator be responsible for raiding these tubes and destroying the egg cells? I doubt a bird could reach deep into the 6" tubes, but perhaps wasps or other insects could be the problem. What should be done for next year's bees? [Read the Pros' Answers](#).

ELA News

Call for Ecological Designers to Showcase Their Projects

Two Tour Dates: Saturday, June 24 and Saturday, August 12 from 12:00 to 4:00pm

Sign up now to be part of ELA's first ecological garden tour. **Celebrating Natives: Massachusetts Statewide Tour** will feature designer-guided, homeowner-guided, or self-guided tours of private and public gardens that celebrate the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants and ecological practices.

From paths, to ponds, to pocket gardens and from borders, to backyards, to botanical gardens, native plant gardens are a growing trend. As ELA organizes tours all around Massachusetts, we invite you to showcase your project that celebrates native plants. Find out more about the event and register your garden [here](#) by June 1st. Attendee registration will begin in May.



We love to hear from you, our ELA members.

Consider contributing to upcoming newsletter issues by writing an article, reviewing a book, or sharing a photo essays of your latest eco project. The best submissions come from our talented membership! We encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas, expertise, stories, activities, and resources with the ELA Newsletter readership. Send to mail to: ela_new@verizon.net.



Ways to Support ELA Education

Support ELA Education when you shop at [AmazonSmile](#). It's easy. Go to www.smile.amazon.com, enter your account as usual, specify Ecological Landscape Alliance as your preferred charity, and start shopping. Amazon donates a portion of qualified purchases. It will put a smile on your face. Once again the Boston Globe is donating free advertising space based on the recommendations of subscribers. Support ELA by going to the [GRANT page](#), entering your six digit Globe subscriber number, and identifying the Ecological Landscape Alliance, Holliston, MA as the organization you would like to support. Thank you!



Enjoy the ELA Newsletter? Enjoy all of the ELA Member benefits!
[Become an ELA Member!](#)

Gleanings

Designed to Fail: How Green Infrastructure Standards Create Conditions for Failed Plantings

According to Thomas Rainer, not treating plants as dynamic systems is the culprit in failed green infrastructure plantings. Municipalities need to turn to experts in plant community design. [Read the article.](#)



Why Cities Need to Cover Their Buildings in Plants

Are plans to cover urban buildings with plants and trees just greenwashing? Or do plant covered skyscrapers really affect a city's sustainability? [Read the article.](#)



How One of the World's Densest Cities Has Gone Green

Learn how densely-populated Singapore brings green spaces to an island roughly half the size of metropolitan London and populated by 5.6 million people. [Read the article.](#)



Finding the World's Remaining Peatlands

Having recently discovered two huge uncharted peatlands, scientists are racing to locate more of the gigantic underground stores of carbon before they are lost to development. [Read the story in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



MA Arborists Day of Service - April 28

Every April, Massachusetts Arborists Association coordinates a state-wide day of volunteer service. Hundreds of arborists work collaboratively or on independent projects at an array of sites, from community parks to conservation lands. To volunteer your service or seek help for a project, visit the [MAA website.](#)



Landscape Tips and Updates from UMass Extension

UMass Extension offers a monthly e-newsletter with gardening tips, timely topics, and news and warnings relevant to landscapes. [Check the April issue.](#) You can also sign up to receive regular [Landscape Messages](#) that reports regional growing conditions and pest activity. To sign up, go to <http://ag.umass.edu/landscape/email-list>.



Association to Preserve Cape Cod Showcases Porous Pave Project

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod's new facility in Dennis, MA features permeable paving material for handicap parking pad and accessible walkway as part of the organization's movement to create a "Living Landscape Laboratory." [Read the story.](#)



Pesticide Disposal

If you live in Massachusetts and have unwanted pesticides to dispose of, MDAR is providing an opportunity for MA Pesticide applicators to dispose of unwanted pesticides at no cost. To participate, you must register by May 15, 2017. For more information and registration, [click here.](#) The spotted lanternfly, shown at right, is an invasive pest currently found only in Pennsylvania.



Learn More about Invasive Pest Prevention

Are you a Massachusetts landscaper that imports/distributes stone and or tile materials for use in construction or landscaping? If so, we'd like to hear from you! The Forest Pest Outreach Project, part of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, is looking to meet with local landscape/hardscape businesses to develop preventative measures to keep invasive insects from entering out state. To learn more about how you can help and/or schedule a meeting, please visit the [Massachusetts Introduced Pest Outreach Blog](#).



ELA Member in the News

Christie Dustman and her conifer-intense home garden were recently featured in the *Globe Magazine*. Dustman's property is on the Garden Conservancy's Greater Boston Open Day tour this year. [Read the story](#).



Grants!

J. M. K. Innovation Prize

The J.M.K. Innovation Prize, an initiative of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, supports social entrepreneurs across the United States who are spearheading game-changing solutions to society's most urgent challenges. The prize considers three broad funding categories:

- * The Environment - Reducing the pace and impacts of climate change.
- * Heritage Conservation - Conserving America's greatest monuments and places.
- * Social Justice - Supporting decarceration and humane immigrant integration.

Click [here](#) for details. Deadline: April 28, 2017.



Call for Presenters

The Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators seeks horticulture-focused presentations for their annual conference to be held in Marlborough on June 29th. [Find more information here](#).



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

April 15 - [Edible Landscaping with Fruit](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.

April 17 - [The New American Chestnut](#); Boston, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

April 20 - [Working with Industry to Reduce the Spread of Invasive Ornamental Plants](#) - webinar; 3:00pm EST.

April 21-22 [UMass Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration with Dr. Michael Dirr](#); Amherst, MA.

April 21-23 - [17th Northeast Natural History Conference](#); Cromwell, CT.

April 22 - [Earth Day & March for Science](#); multiple venues.

April 29 **ELA Event**→[Xeriscaping](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-3:30pm.

April 29 - [People's Climate March](#); Washington, D.C.

April 29 - [Mass Audubon Statewide Volunteer Day](#); sites around Massachusetts.

April 29 - [Propagation and Starting the Season in a Heated Greenhouse](#); North Kingston, RI; 1:00-3:00pm.

May 3 - [The Challenge of a Public Native Plant Garden: Maintenance, Interpretation, and Compromise](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00 - 8:30pm.

May 3 - [Conifer Pollination: Sex among Evergreens](#); Boston, MA; 6:30-8:00pm.

May 4-20 - [Tree Stewards Education Course](#); Providence, RI; multiple days, times vary.

May 5- [Witness Tree: A Year in the Forest](#); Boston, MA; 1:00-2:00pm.

May 7- [Botany Blast: A Look at Plant Development](#); Boston, MA; 1:00-2:00pm.

May 11-13 - [Farm to Plate Conference](#); Ithaca, NY.

May 13 - [Grow Native Plant Sale](#); Waltham, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

May 16 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Lincoln Park](#); Lexington, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.
 May 18 - [MA Smart Growth Conference](#); Worcester, MA.
 May 23 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Roger Williams Park - Artful Stormwater Solutions](#); Providence, RI; 10:30am-12:30pm.
 May 31 - [Hope in a New Ecology](#); Boston, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
 June 4 **ELA Event**→[Rain Garden Fundamentals](#); Framingham, MA; 1:30-3:00pm.
 June 4-10 - [Introduction to Bryophytes and Lichens](#); Steuben, ME.
 June 7 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Fuller Brook Park Streambank Restoration](#); Wellesley, MA; 4:30-6:30pm.
 June 7 - [Improving Water Quality in Your Own Backyard](#); Worcester, MA; 5:30-7:30pm.
 June 7-10 - [Native Plants in the Landscape Conference: Building Communities...One Plant at a Time](#); Millersville, PA.
 June 11-17 - [Mosses: Structure, Ecology, and Identification](#); Steuben, ME.
 June 12-13 - [Herpetology Workshop](#); Stokes State Forest, NJ.
 June 14 - [Supporting Pollinators & Saving Water Workshop](#); Worcester, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
 June 15 **ELA Eco-tour**→[YardScaping Ecological Demonstration Gardens](#); Portland, ME; 4:00-6:00pm.
 June 15 - [Warren Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner](#); Boston, MA; 6:00pm.
 June 16 **ELA Event**→ [Designing a Garden for All Seasons](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.
 June 18-24 - [Bogs and Fens: Maine Peatlands](#); Steuben, ME.
 June 20 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Heritage Museums & Gardens](#); Sandwich, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.
 June 21 **ELA Event**→ [Growing a Vibrant Shade Garden](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.
 June 24 **ELA Eco-tour**→Celebrating the Natives; save the date for ELA's first regional tour of ecological gardens. Locations throughout Massachusetts.
 June 25-July 1 - [Liverworts and Liverwort Ecology](#); Steuben, ME.
 June 27 **ELA Event**→[The Role of Plants in an Aquatic Ecosystem](#); Mendon, MA; 10:00am-12:30pm.
 June 30 **ELA Event**→[Birds & Bees: Meadows and Native Field Trials](#); Shelburne, VT; 1:00-3:00pm.



Kingston, Rhode Island

Temporary Field Assistant Through October 2017

The Rhode Island Natural History Survey seeks a temporary Field Assistant for the 2017 season. S/he will assist the RINHS Botanist and Wetlands Scientist on a variety of projects relating to wetland habitat assessment, invasive species management, and habitat restoration using native plantings. Pay is \$15/hour. Hours will vary, typically 20 to 35 hours per week. To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three work references to programadmin@rinhs.org.

Arlington, Massachusetts **Gardener/Driver**

FoxGloves Fine Gardening is seeking a hardworking, responsible individual to drive our van for pickups and deliveries and also general gardening work. This is a full-time, full-season position with competitive pay. All applicants must possess a valid driver's license, reliable vehicle and have the ability to lift 50 lbs. Please contact employment@foxglovesgardens.com (use FG Garden Help - <your name> in the subject line), or call 617-834-0886.

Arlington, Massachusetts **General Gardener**

FoxGloves Fine Gardening is seeking a hardworking, responsible individual to work as a general gardener on our properties located in Lexington and Lincoln. This is a full-time, full-season position with competitive pay. All applicants must possess a valid driver's license, reliable vehicle and have the ability to lift 50 lbs. Please contact employment@foxglovesgardens.com (use FG Garden Help - <your name> in the subject line), or call 617-834-0886.

Boston, Massachusetts **Landscaper's Assistant**

Responsible, energetic, strong and plant savvy; pay commensurate with ability. Boston area sites, must have car. Part time, hours negotiable.

Start immediately. Please contact Colleen. leaningcrow@earthlink.net

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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join.

[Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net. *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

