



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

August 2016

This summer has been one for thinking about water. Many parts of the U.S. are parched and showing signs of drought. As of August 9, over half of the United State was abnormally dry with over 12% experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions. (You can check your area at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>). When rain comes, it is frequently a downpour that overwhelms stormwater systems. This month's newsletter looks at water in the landscape, and our authors present the many ways they and their communities are working to manage this vital resource. Enjoy the articles with a cool glass of water on the side. *MS*



Landscape as Infrastructure: The Importance of Simplicity and Lovability by Jonathan Ford, PE

Infrastructure is the basic physical framework of our society, the public realm, the connective tissue, the built systems and landscape. Modern infrastructure has moved us toward the functional. How can green infrastructure lead us back to the beautiful? [Read the article.](#)



Woodies and Water: A Case for the Use of Shrubs in Reducing Urban Stormwater by Ethan Dropkin and Dr. Nina Bassuk

Stormwater has become increasingly problematic, particularly in urban areas. Plants play a number of important roles in successful stormwater infiltration practices. While herbaceous plants may establish quickly and fill a site, woody plants offer other benefits. [Read the article.](#)



A New Approach to Landscaping in Long Island: Changing the Process to Protect Our Waterways by Tia Novak

Across Long Island, the very thing that makes the place so special is under attack: water. Rethinking stormwater management and updating septic systems is part of the solution, but changing how we perceive "the lawn" and transitioning lawns to be toxin free are also important. [Read the article.](#)



2,000 Gallon Project by Nick Shannon

When is a dumpster more than a dumpster? When it's planted with native trees and perennials a dumpster becomes a neighborhood amenity and a visual representation and reminder of the amount of water a bio-swale diverts from overburdened sewer systems during a storm. [Read the article.](#)



Rainwater for Gardens: Why Plants Love Rainwater Best

by Jesse Savou

It might not come as a surprise that there's no water plants love better than rainwater. Why is rainwater the preferred water source? [Read the article.](#)

ELA News

Fall Educational Events

As the weather cools, the educational opportunities heat up. Be sure to check the remaining [Eco-tours for 2016](#) as well the lineup for Season 4 of the webinar series [A Focus on Sustainability](#). Also look for:

ELA's 7th annual Season's End Summit: [Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind](#) on November 10 at the Community Harvest Project Barn in North Grafton, MA. The full-day event features presentations and a panel discussion. Continental breakfast and hot lunch included in registration.

Creating [Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep in Plant Knowledge with The Masters](#) is a special ELA collaboration with Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Bridge Park. Don't miss this unique opportunity on December 9 to gain functional horticultural information from those professionals with a deep understanding of plants. Morning coffee and catered lunch included in registration.



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Gleanings

Re-greening the Los Angeles River Visitors to Los Angeles hesitate to refer to the network of concrete channels running through the city as the Los Angeles River. However, plans are underway to restore a section of the river to a state more closely resembling the wild, meandering waterway of earlier centuries. [Read about the project.](#)



Challenges to Green Streets and Stormwater

Jonathan Page, North Carolina State University, reports in Sustainable Cities Collective on [Challenges to Implementing Green Streets for Stormwater Management](#).



RiverWise Communities Manual

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay offers a downloadable guide, [Chesapeake RiverWise Communities](#). The guide provides local organizations with practical information about engaging their communities in stormwater management that supports healthy ecosystems.



Introduction to Adobe InDesign

The Conway School is offering a digital design workshop, Introduction to Adobe InDesign, at its Easthampton, MA campus. The workshop runs from August 30 until September 2. For details and registration, go to the [Conway School](#) website.



Lyme Disease Update on Cape Cod

Speaking at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, Dr. Nevena Zubcevik, attending physician at Harvard Medical School and co-director of Dean Center for Tick Borne Illness at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charleston, MA, shared recent findings on diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease. Read the story reported by the MV Times at <http://www.mvtimes.com/2016/07/13/visiting-physician-sheds-new-light-lyme-disease/>.



Insect Repellents and Zika

Environmental Working Group (EWG) provides updated information on bug repellents, *Aedes* mosquitoes, and the Zika virus. [Read](#) about the effectiveness of a range of repellents.



North Creek Nurseries Receives

North Creek Nursery, an ELA member and event sponsor, was named the 2016 Operation of the Year with special distinction for Excellence in Sustainable Production by Greenhouse Grower. [Read more](#).



Consider Pro-Bono Design Work with COGdesign

Community groups in underserved areas of Boston and eastern Massachusetts can apply for projects to begin in spring of 2017. If you know of a group that would benefit from pro-bono landscape design and landscape architecture services, the application and additional information are at cogdesign.org.



New England Wildflower Society Offers Online Courses

Three online courses are available this fall through the New England Wildflower Society: Plants 101: Intro to the Green World, Plants 102: Deeper into the Green World, and Designing with Native Plants. Find details and registration information at <http://newenglandwild.org/learn/our-programs/>; look for "Online" in the Program State column.



Seeking Presentation Proposals

Share your organic perspective at an upcoming conferences.

* NOFA/Mass application deadline: September 16, 2016 for Conference January 14, 2017 at Worcester State University. Details [here](#).

* NOFA-VT application deadline September 21, 2016 for Conference February 18-20, 2017, University of Vermont, Burlington. Details [here](#).

* Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) seeks workshop proposals and suggestions as well as poster proposals for its annual Environmental Conference to be held March 4 in Worcester, MA. Proposal deadline is August 26, 2016. Details [here](#).



Celebrate National Parks through Citizen Science

The National Park Service marks its 100th birthday on August 25, 2016. You can celebrate by joining a Bioblitz in Yellowstone Park, or by tracking phenology along the Appalachian Trail or on Cape Cod. Find out more about citizen science programs in the national parks at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/rlc/citizenscience.cfm>.



Save the Monarchs Tour Jose Luis Alvarez, a nurseryman and founder of [Forests for Monarchs](#), will speak at sites around New England in August and September as part of a Save the Monarch Tour.

[Click for the tour schedule](#).



Western Monarchs Show Steep Decline A recent Xerces Society report, State of the Monarch

Butterfly Overwintering Sites in California, shows that in less than 20 years, western monarch butterflies overwintering along the California Coast have declined by 74%. [Read the report](#). For additional information and resources, go to xerces.org.



Conservation Biocontrol Short Course

Conservation biological control is a science-based pest management strategy that seeks to integrate beneficial insects back into cropping systems for natural pest control, ultimately reducing and in some cases eliminating the need for insecticides.

A Conservation Biological Control Short Course will be held on Tuesday, September 20th in Keene, NH at Stonewall Farm. The full-day course will cover the principles of Conservation Biological Control and how to support beneficial insects on farms through habitat enhancements, farm management practices, pesticide protections, and other conservation strategies (CCA 6 CEU). [Register online](#).



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

August 15,16,22,23 - [Maine Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care](#); Portland, ME.

August 18 **ELA Event**→[Bird Park Ecological Management = Beautiful and Healthy Ecosystems](#); East Walpole, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

August 20 - [URI Master Gardener Program: Project Open House](#); sites throughout RI; 9:00am-12:00pm.

August 27 - [Bumble Bee Short Course](#); Boston, MA 9:00am-4:00pm. (waiting list)

August 30-September 2 - [Introduction in InDesign](#); Easthampton, MA.

September 12 - [Organic Pest & Disease Control Course](#); Fall River, MA; 6:00-8:50pm.

September 17 - [Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs](#); Topsfield, MA; 9:00-11:00am.

September 14 **ELA Event**→[Eco-Tour: Sustainable Eco-Systems for Wildlife](#); Cambridge, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

September 20 - [Farming with Beneficial Insects: Conservation Biological Control Short Course](#); Keene, NH; 9:00am-4:30pm.

September 20 **ELA Event**→[Reawaking Large Landscapes - Activating the Space](#) - Webinar; 7:00pm EST.

September 22-October 20 (on Thursdays) - [Environmental Gardening](#); Topsfield, MA.

September 22-24 - [Trail Building and Stewardship Skills](#); Easthampton & Northampton, MA.

September 23 **ELA Event**→[Inspiration from a Prairie](#); Garden City, NY; 8:30am-3:30pm.

September 29 - [MA Green Careers Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am. Early registration ends August 19.

September 29 - [Pollinator Conservation with Xerces](#); Westampton, NJ; 9:00am-4:30pm.

October 2 - [Celebrating Connecticut's Landscape: Fall Foliage Tour](#) (focus on habitat management projects); meet in Burlington, CT; 10:00am-4:00pm.

October 4 **ELA Event**→[Eco-Tour: Ecological Landscape Maintenance Techniques at Mass Audubon](#); Belmont, MA; 3:00-5:00pm.

October 7 - [Building with Stone](#); Westhampton, MA;

October 11 - [Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group \(CIPWG\) Symposium](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-4:30pm.

October 12 **ELA Event**→[Improving Cash Flow: Better Business Practices for Landscape Professionals](#) - Webinar; 7:00pm EST.

October 20 **ELA Event**→[Dirty Streets to Dirty BMPs: Maintaining Stormwater BMPs along Roadways](#) - Webinar; 1:00pm EST.

October 20-21 - [Chainsaw Use, Safety, and Maintenance](#); Williamsburg, MA.

October 21-24 - [ASLA 2016 Annual Meeting and EXPO](#); New Orleans.

October 24-December 12 - [UMass Extension's Green School](#); Milford, MA. (Sept 23 ends early bird registration)

November 1 **ELA Event**→[Urban Tree Selection in a Changing Climate](#) - Webinar; 1:00pm EST.

November 2 **ELA Event**→[How to Use Sex and Power to Increase Sales](#) - Webinar; 4:00pm EST.

November 2 - [Managing Phosphorus in Organic Residuals Applied to Soils](#); Marlborough, MA; 8:45am-4:00pm.

November 9-10 - [Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo](#); Boxborough, MA.

November 10 **ELA Event**→[2016 Season's End Summit: Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind](#); North Grafton, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

November 16 **ELA Event**→[Soil Amendments: What Works, What Should Be Avoided?](#) - Webinar; 1:00-2:00pm EDT.

December 8 **ELA Event**→[Evaluating Conservation Landscape Designs](#) - Webinar; 7:00-2:00pm EDT.

December 9 **ELA Event**→[Creating Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep into Plant Knowledge with the Masters](#); Brooklyn, NY; 8:00am-5:00pm.

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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*

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