



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

January 2016

New location! More energy! ELA is anxious to explore the new opportunities in Amherst as we relocate the [2016 Conference and Eco-Marketplace](#) to the flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts. UMass Amherst offers ELA a beautiful conference venue (shown at right). Attendees and exhibitors will commingle in spaces outside the lecture rooms, and those staying overnight at the Conference Center travel just a few floors to their rooms, consolidating all that conference energy. We'll eat locally, too, as we sample a locally-sourced lunch on Wednesday while learning about the Pioneer Valley local foods movement from Philip Korman.



This month's newsletter features articles by several conference presenters. Permaculture principles in the horticulture setting and building soil resources are the topics for Focused Sessions on Wednesday, and an article by Jonathan Bates straddles both topics. We also hear from Lukas Sturm who will lead a landscape lighting demonstration on Thursday morning and then speak to the topic of successful landscape lighting. Also, Keith Nevison compares the ecological value of "nativars" based on results from his research at Mt. Cuba Center, and Emily Goodwin, co-owner of Back Meadow Farm in Maine, addresses the need to engage young people in land care businesses. Finally, we have a review of *Planting in a Post-Wild World*. It's all good reading for the cold month ahead and a nice preview of the conference. *MS*



The Role of Native Cultivars in the Ecological Landscape: Evaluating Insect Preferences and Nectar Quality in Phlox and Its Cultivars

by Keith Nevison

The rise of "nativars" in the marketplace is being driven by overall sales growth and interest in using native plants for ecological landscapes. Nursery owners who want to distinguish themselves from their competitors often develop new plants that they feel are superior to products currently found in the marketplace. But are they better ecologically? [Read the article.](#)

Continue the nativar discussion on March 10, when Keith presents "What Role Do Native Cultivars Have in an Ecological Landscape?" at [ELA's 22nd Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) in Amherst, MA.



Light Gives Form to Landscape Architecture

by Lukas Sturm

Though the intricacies of lighting design can be complex, the overall concept is relatively straight forward. Setting aside the complexities for the moment, the fundamental premise to Lighting Design is "Light the things you want to see." [Read the article.](#)

Lukas Sturm shares his lighting expertise with an early morning Landscape Lighting Demonstration and then presents "Light Up Your Landscape" on Thursday, March 10 at [ELA's 22nd Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) in Amherst, MA.



Get the Dirt! Grow Food and Soil with a Food Forest

by Jonathan Bates

After 10 years of learning from and collaborating with a mega-diverse, globally inspired, edible forest garden, new wonders are under foot. Paradise Lot in Holyoke, MA has a story tell, and the author deciphers its wonders. [Read the article.](#)

Jonathan Bates applies his permaculture knowledge to the development of conventional landscapes at a Focus Session March 9 at [ELA's 22nd Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) in Amherst, MA.

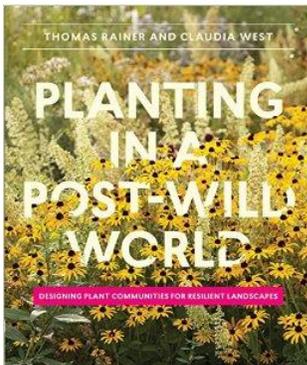


Selling the Landscape Industry to the Next Generation

by Emily Goodwin

How can we make the landscaping business appealing to generations coming up? What are the appeals of landscaping work and how do they translate into an engaged work force. Goodwin shares her own family's story and her experiences growing her Maine business. [Read the article.](#)

Co-presenting with Arek Galle, BETA Group, Inc., Emily Goodwin presents Creating Ecological Landscapes in Maine: Challenges & Opportunities on March 10, 2016 at [ELA's 22nd Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) in Amherst, MA.



Book Review

Planting in a Post-Wild World

Written by Thomas Rainer & Claudia West, Published by Timber Press, 2015

Reviewed by Penny Lewis

Two leading figures in ecological landscape design have come together to offer a bold new way of designing and creating landscapes that are ecological as well as beautiful. For designers who are committed to ecological principles, this book offers both the inspiration and the practical steps necessary to be transformative. [Read the Review.](#)

Author Claudia West presents "Designing with Plant Communities in Mind" on March 10, 2016 at [ELA's 22nd Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) in Amherst, MA.



Company Member Profile: Wolf Landscape Architecture

Wolf Landscape Architecture designs outdoor places that are durable, inviting, and alive. We help nonprofits, government agencies, corporations, and homeowners create landscapes that support natural systems and foster memorable encounters with the natural world. To learn more about our award-winning projects, please visit wolflandscape.com.

ELA News

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities at ELA Conference The [ELA Conference](#) is scheduled for March 9 & 10 at the UMass Campus Center, Amherst, MA. Join us to immerse yourself in a two-day exploration of ecological concepts that support living landscapes. Introduce your company to the highly-focused, ecological audience: [become a conference exhibitor](#) or [sponsor](#) the 2016 conference.



Enjoy the Newsletter? Support ELA by [becoming a member](#).



Gleanings

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has spread throughout 25 states in the U.S. and parts of Canada, killing millions of ash trees and causing billions of dollars in treatment, removal, and replacement costs. Massachusetts state officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recently confirmed the presence of EAB in the city of Worcester, MA.

The small, metallic green beetle is native to Asia and feeds on ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) and white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). Although eradication of EAB is not feasible, slowing its spread allows communities to prepare in advance and make the best decisions about how to manage ash trees before they are affected. To prevent the inadvertent spread of forest pests like EAB, avoid moving untreated firewood long distances. Instead, find local and trusted firewood suppliers, or purchase firewood that is certified as treated.

For additional information about EAB, refer to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>. To report finding EAB, look for the link under "Is EAB in your state?"



Salt, Plants, and Winter Injury

Over 22 million tons of road salt is used across the country each winter. Despite the benefits of salt for deicing roads, the chemicals can damage landscape plants. UMass Amherst Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment recently posted a Fact Sheet on salt damage to plants and strategies for managing use and mitigating damage: [The Impact of Salts on Plants and How to Reduce Plant Injury from Winter Salt Applications](#).



I-Park 2016 Landscape/Garden/Ecological Design Program

I-Park, located in rural East Haddam, CT (U.S.), recently announced its 2016 multi-disciplinary artists-in-residence program. The program is open to landscape, garden, and ecological designers looking to expand and enrich their creative practice in a retreat-like, collegial setting - in the company of visual artists, music composers, writers and architects. Self-directed residencies are offered from May through November, 2016. Most residencies are four weeks in duration, though split (2-week) sessions can occasionally be arranged to accommodate busy career schedules. International applicants are welcome. The application deadline is January 25, 2016.

Visit the I-Park website for program details and the application form: <http://www.i-park.org/general->

[residency-program](#). Some suggestions for how a landscape architect or garden designer might productively utilize the gift of time, space, and fellowship that an I-Park residency bestows can be found at <http://bit.ly/1MEuMD8>. For more information, contact I-Park at info@i-park.org or 860-873-2468.



Mapping Out Conservation: New Online Tool Mass Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, and LandVest have developed a new online tool to help communities protect land more easily and effectively. Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience (MAPPR) is a user-friendly, GIS-based tool that identifies the highest priority parcels of land for conservation in any region in the state based on habitat quality, climate change resilience, and more. Go to www.massaudubon.org/mappr to locate your town or watershed.



Speaker, Exhibitor, Sponsor Opportunities

* ASLA is currently accepting proposals for the 2016 Annual Meeting and EXPO education program, taking place October 21-24, 2016 in New Orleans. If you are interested in presenting and sharing your knowledge with the landscape architecture profession, you may submit a proposal through an [online system](#) before the January 28 deadline.

* [Sustainability on Campus & Main Street](#) scheduled for April 15th at Hampshire College and April 16th in Northampton, MA shares best practices and resources for advancing sustainable development both on campuses and in communities. Check opportunities to [present](#), [exhibit](#), or [sponsor](#) at the 2016 conference.

* With more than 500 attendees from all parts of the land conservation community, the April 2nd Mass Land Conservation Conference (MLCC) provides an outstanding opportunity to showcase your products and services. Exhibitor space is limited, and spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Find more information [here](#). Download the exhibitor form [here](#).



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

January 20 **ELA Event**→[Connecting the Drops: Creating Abundance with Rainwater Harvesting](#) - Webinar; 11:00am-12:00pm EST.

January 20 **ELA Event**→["Beyond LID" Green Infrastructure](#) - Webinar; 2:00-3:00pm EST.

January 21 - [Natural Lawn Care Management Training for Professionals and the Public](#); Newton, MA; 8:00am-3:00pm.

January 27-February 17 - [Community Training in Ecological Design](#) (5-part series); Boscawen, NH.

February 3 - [Native Plant Gardens: Learning by Example](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30 pm.

February 5-28 - [Winter in Bloom](#); Boylston, MA; multiple events over four weekends, times vary.

February 9 - [MLP Annual Meeting](#); Framingham, MA; 5:00-8:00pm.

February 10, 17&24 - [Understanding and Managing Soils](#); Framingham, MA.

February 18-21 - [Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show](#); Providence, RI.

February 22-15 - [NOFA Accreditation Courses](#); Norwich, CT.

February 23 **ELA Event**→[Principles of Ecological Landscape Design - Getting It Right](#) - Webinar; 12:00-1:00pm EST.

February 25 - [Landscaping with Native Shrubs: They Are Tougher than You Think](#); Waltham, MA; 7:00-9:00pm.

February 26 - [Fire on the New England Landscape](#); Framingham, MA; 6:30-9:00pm.

February 28 - [Healthy Soils, Healthy Plants, Healthy People](#); Warren, RI.

February 28 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Warren, RI; 8:30am-4:30pm.
March 2 - [Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30 pm.
March 3 - [Introduction to Prescribed Fire](#); Framingham, MA.
March 5 - [Natives, Pollinators, and Edible Gardening](#); South Kingstown, RI; 7:30am-3:30pm.
March 5 - [MACC Environmental Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-5:15pm.
March 8 - [Community Tree Conference: Work Safe, Stay Safe](#); Amherst, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
March 9&10 **ELA Annual Conference**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.
March 9 - [The Language of Climate Change](#); Worcester, MA;
March 10 - [Compost Conference](#); Providence, RI; 9:00am-3:00pm.
March 11 - [SNEC Winter Conference](#); Sturbridge, MA.
March 19 - [The Land and Water Conservation Summit](#); Providence, RI.
April 2 - [MA Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
April 6 - [Spring Wildflowers: Ephemeral Beauty with a Purpose](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30 pm.
April 15 - [Sustainable Campuses and Communities](#); Amherst, MA.
April 16 - [Sustainable Campuses and Communities](#); Northampton, MA.
May 4 - [Planting in a Post-Wild World](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30 pm.

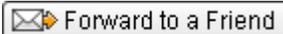
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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion 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*

 Forward to a Friend

