



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

July

Undesirable invasive plants are impossible to avoid. Whether walking in a neighborhood, hiking in a national park, or biking on a city street, you can find invasive plants putting pressure on local ecosystems. This month ELA explores ways to control invasive plants without synthetic herbicides. This issue of the newsletter offers articles on invasive plant control efforts. And ELA's July 29th workshop: *Out of Control: Chemical-free Strategies for Invasive Plant Control* will delve further into the topic. (This workshop has now sold out.)

Attention Mid-Atlantic readers! In November, a new event will roll out in Pennsylvania. [Ecological Synergies: Understanding Performance-Based, Resilient Landscapes](#), an intensive one-day workshop, takes place November 20 at Longwood Gardens. You'll want to sign up early for this unique opportunity to enjoy an interactive demonstration by international plantsman Dr. Noel Kingsbury. Register soon to save your seat and to take advantage of discounts. This promises to be an exceptional program. *MS*



Invasive Plant Species Management by Michael DeRosa

Invasive plants tend to be fast growing species found throughout abandoned landscapes, on roadsides, along stream banks, and in neglected gardens. These plants are effective in occupying areas otherwise controlled by our native species. As the range of non-native, invasive species expands, they displace our native species and can have a profound effect on insect populations which have evolved and adapted to our native plant communities. There are viable non-chemical solutions. [Read the article.](#)



Making Good Use of Volunteer Resources for Invasive Plant Control by Bruce Wenning

Many non-profit conservation organizations struggle with well-intentioned ideas and plans about how to rid their lands of exotic invasive plants. Some have enlisted interested staff with a few dedicated, but sporadic, volunteers to help with the removal of a particular invasive from an ecologically critical parcel or from a highly visible area. Conservation non-profits can successfully recruit and retain volunteers for both long-term and short-term exotic invasive plant control projects. [Read the article.](#)



Tackling Invasives with a Tool Loan Program by Melissa Brogle

Invasive plants can have a detrimental impact on habitats and watersheds, including the Great Bay watershed in New Hampshire. However, to make their invasive control/removal efforts more effective and a little easier, groups working to combat invasive plants on the seacoast can borrow some tough "weed wrenching" tools. [Read the article.](#)



From Invasive Lot to Native Garden

by David Smith

Work will continue this summer on stabilizing a 2.6-acre undeveloped parcel owned by the Avalonia Land Conservancy in the heart of the Borough of Stonington, CT. The now-barren land will be filled with plants and shrubs. The parcel at the end of Wall Street is wedged between Little Narragansett Bay and million-dollar homes. It's the biggest tract in the Borough that is open to the public. [Read the article.](#)



Buying Bee-Friendly Plants: Neonicotinoid-Free Nurseries, Growers, and Seed Sources

by Genevieve Schmidt

Mounting research points to neonicotinoid pesticides in plant pollen and nectar as a contributing factor in Colony Collapse Disorder and as a general threat to the health of many pollinators. Though you may avoid treating plants once they are in the ground, it can be difficult to determine how the plants or seeds you've purchased have been treated before they reach you. California-based landscape designer Genevieve Schmidt has spent hours contacting growers, nurseries, and seed companies to find out whether their products are neonicotinoid free. She shares her list and continues to add to it as she hears back from readers. [Read the article.](#)

ELA News



New Pennsylvania Intensive Workshop Planned for November

ELA members in the Mid-Atlantic states will want to register early for [Ecological Synergies: Understanding Performance-Based, Resilient Landscapes](#). This intensive workshop will be held at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA from 9:00am-5:00pm on November 20, 2015.

Registration is limited for this inaugural event that will feature presentations by internationally acclaimed plantsman and author [Dr. Noel Kingsbury](#). His presentations will focus on the inner workings of plants and how plants into their environment and will include an interactive demonstration of plant morphology.



In additional sessions, Kate Kennen, phytotechnology expert, looks at real world examples of Phytoremediation, and Tom Brightman, Land Steward at Longwood Gardens, shares the ecology of the Longwood Meadow.

To ensure your place at Ecological Synergies, [register now and save.](#)

Note Our Change of Address

Need to send mail to ELA? Note our new address:

Ecological Landscape Alliance
PO Box 3
Sandown, NH 03873

Gleanings

Invasive Weed Control Grant Funding Available

The [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Pulling Together Initiative](#) provides grants that will develop cooperative weed management areas (CWMA), support significant advances of existing CWMA's, develop or strengthen prevention and early detection/rapid response efforts, enhance education, and assist awareness projects to reduce, or eliminate, invasive plant species. Pre-proposals must be submitted online by August 3, 2015 and full proposals by September 30, 2015.



Tick Resources

University of Rhode Island Tick Encounter Resource Center provides up-to-date information on tick activity by region. You can report your own tick encounter or access tick safety information from the website: <http://www.tickencounter.org/>. A recorded [webinar](#) offers an overview.



Tools for Identifying Invasive Plants

Unclear on what's considered invasive in your area? Check www.invasive.org. You can report your own sighting of an invasive plant, disease, insect, or other animal. You can also check the distribution maps to find out what's been reported as invasive in your area. [The Bugwood Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health](#) offers several smartphone apps for identifying and reporting invasive species.



Plant Nutrient Regulations Established in MA

Effective June 5, 2015, new regulations governing the application of plant nutrients were enacted in response to "An Act Relative to the Regulation of Plant Nutrients" passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2012. The regulations ensure the effective application of plant nutrients in both non-agricultural and agricultural land, including turf and lawns, while minimizing the effects of nutrients on surface and ground water resources in order to protect human health and the environment. For more information, including a fact sheet for turf and lawns, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/plant-nutrient-management.html>.



Opportunities to Exhibit or Present with NOFA

Reserve your exhibitor or vending space at NOFA's Summer Conference, August 14-16, by contacting Bob Minnocci at bob@nofamass.org or 617-236-4893. Find additional information on the [NOFA website](#). Also, NOFA/Mass Winter Conference seeks workshop presenters for its 2016 event. The deadline for proposals is September 1, 2015. Refer to the NOFA Mass [website for details](#).



Call for Presentations at Southeast NY Stormwater Conference

Proposals due by close of business on July 20th for presentations at the October 14 conference in Beacon, NY. [Click here for a pdf](#) with details about topics and guidelines for presentations.



Call for Designers to Volunteer with COGdesign

COGdesign seeks landscape designers to volunteer in the development of an outdoor playspace at Codman Academy Public Charter School in Dorchester, MA. Email info@cogdesign.org for additional information.



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

July 19 - [Gardening for Wildlife Day](#); Milton, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

July 19-25 - [Native Bees as Pollinators: Diversity, Ecology, Conservation and Habitat Enhancement](#); Steuben, ME. Check [website](#) for other related events.

July 22 - [Ergonomic Tips for Healthier Gardening](#); Boylston, MA; 10:00-11:30am.

July 23 [ELA Event](#)→[NYC School Playground Combines Creative Play and Effective Green Infrastructure](#); Brooklyn, NY; 11:00am-1:00pm.

July 24 - [People and Urban Trees: Perceptions and Stewardship Behavior](#), Webinar; 12:00-1:00pmEST.

July 25 [ELA Event](#)→[The Green Art Garden: A Garden for Nature and a Space for Art](#); Kittery, ME; 10:00am-12:00pm.

July 29 [ELA Event](#)→[Out of Control: Chemical-free Strategies for Invasive Plant Control](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-5:00pm. **SOLD OUT**

August 2 **ELA Event**→[Kill Your Lawn](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
August 2 & 7 - [Basic Wetland Identification and Delineation](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.
August 6 **ELA Event**→[A River Runs Through It: Daylighting the Neponset River at Gillette Stadium](#); Foxborough, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.
August 9-15 - [Botany at the Landscape Scale](#); Steuben, ME. Check [website](#) for other related events.
August 10-11 - [Designing for Future Climates: Resilient Facilities, Communities, and Economies](#); Conway, MA.
August 11 - [Hydric Soils](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.
August 14-16 - [NOFA Summer Conference](#); Amherst, MA.
August 15 - [Ergonomic Tips for Healthier Gardening](#); Boylston, MA; 10:00-11:30am.
August 18 **ELA Event**→[Guiding the Rain: Aesthetic Form - Ecological Function](#); Leominster, MA; 9:00-11:00am.
August 20 - [Grassy Weed Identification Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
August 22 - [Migratory Dragonfly Short Course](#); Alexandria, VA; 9:00am-3:30pm.
September 10 - [Selected Topics for Tree Care Professionals](#); Taunton, MA; 9:30am-12:30pm.
September 15 - [Enhancing Diversity to Support Pollinators: Focus on Bees](#); Jamestown, NC; 7:00pm
September 26 **ELA Event**→[Recreational Lake Shore Restoration](#); Lake Massapoag, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

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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*