

Enjoy this issue as you explore principles and practices that support the living landscape.

June 2017



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

From the Editor



Many organizations are recognizing National Pollinator Week beginning June 18. The [Pollinator Partnership](#) website catalogs formal activities around the country, but you can keep it simple and spend the week reminding clients, neighbors, and friends about the importance of supporting the bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles in the ecosystem. It's easy to celebrate by adding native plants to gardens, leaving a small "unkempt" habitat spot in yards, and avoiding toxic garden chemicals. When we all take small steps, they add up to big benefits for hardworking pollinators.

Many of the gardens featured in this month's issue of the ELA Newsletter are designed, at least in part, to support pollinators. These gardens, public and private, and their owners, professionals and amateurs, invite the public in for education and enjoyment. I hope you'll take a look and then find time to find and enjoy a "garden gem." *MS*



Water-Wise and Whimsy by Soleil Tranquilli

After years of not quite getting around to designing my own landscape, I finally took the first steps toward a complete renovation in 2009. Eight years later, the renovated yard demonstrates our priorities: water conservation, use of predominantly native plants, reuse of materials, and support of wildlife, especially of pollinators. [Read the article.](#)



The Art of Gardening at Chanticleer

2017 ELA Conference Session Review by David Falk

Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, PA grew out of a large family estate with intricate gardens created for the family's pleasure. Now open to the public, Chanticleer stays true to its origins as a pleasure garden, but its purpose also seems to be to expand that idea to include the pleasure of gardening. [Read the session summary.](#)



Innovative Pollinator Ribbon Planting along The Greenway

by Darrah Cole

New and innovative planting designs installed along the length of The Greenway in downtown Boston, MA connect a series of landscapes that support beneficial insects and pollinators. Utilizing the principles of plant communities found in *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, the renovated gardens aim at beautiful resiliency. [Read the article.](#)

The Wharf District Park, connecting the Pollinator Ribbon plantings, is part of ELA's [Celebrating Native Plants Tour](#) on June 24, 2017.



"Gardens Gone Native" Garden Tour

by Colene Rauh

The Northern Sacramento Valley Garden Tour is now in its seventh year of educating the public on the intrinsic value and benefits of gardening with California native plants. Gardens on the spring tour demonstrate the versatility, creativity, and drought tolerance of California native plants, as demonstrated by three sample gardens presented here. [Read the article.](#)



Discovering Garden Gems by Maureen Sundberg

Public and private gardens are a source of beauty and inspiration any time of year, but especially in the full bloom of summer. That's also the time many of us travel to unfamiliar locales for graduation parties, weddings, and family reunions. During your travels, consider scheduling an excursion to a local garden. [Read the article.](#) Join [ELA's LinkedIn conversation](#) and post your choice for a must-see garden.

ELA News

Coming Up: Celebrating Native Plants Tour

There is still space to visit some of the gardens on Saturday, June 24 during the first of two ELA garden tours this summer. The second tour will be held Saturday, August 12, and all properties are still accepting visitors.

This tour of native gardens offers you the chance to discover beautiful gardens of native plants all around Massachusetts and to talk with the gardeners who designed and maintain them - for free. Sign up for as many gardens as you think you can visit! [Click here to register.](#)



Sign Up to Showcase Your Native Plant Projects in August

It's not too late to [register your garden for the August tour](#). Share your project as a stop on ELA's first ecological garden tour celebrating the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants and ecological practices.



Coming Up: Alternatives to Traditional Lawns

Supporting pollinators and maintaining a lawn are often inconsistent landscape goals. Join ELA for the Summer Workshop on July 25th to learn how to support pollinators through ecological maintenance and lawn alternatives. Following emerging best practices, it's possible to create healthy lawns and turf that are functional and aesthetic, yet managed in ways that eliminate negative impacts on human health and the environment, meet regulatory guidelines, and are cost effective. And when considering ecological lawns, one solution that is gaining momentum is to reduce or remove lawns in favor of more biodiverse alternatives. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)



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Gleanings

Lily Leaf Beetle Project

The University of Rhode Island Biological Control Lab is tracking the parasitic insects released beginning in 2001 to combat the lily leaf beetle. The Lab is collecting and dissecting lily leaf beetle larvae from across the country to determine if the parasitic insect is present. If you find larvae on a property, you can help with this research by sending the larvae to URI following the instructions posted on the [URI Biocontrol Lab website](#).



Stormwater Management: Lessons from Our Forests

A report out in May recommends that cities look to biomimicry-inspired design elements for inspiration in controlling stormwater runoff. [Read the article.](#)



For Japan's Eagles, Hope Lies in 'Rewilding' Long-Tamed Forests

Although heavily wooded, many of Japan's forests are monoculture tree plantations offering scant biodiversity. Efforts are underway to return these woodlands to a more diverse state that might bring back wildlife. [Read the article in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



Results from Rose Trials for Sustainability Are In

Since 2012, the Scott Arboretum (Swarthmore, PA) has participated in American Rose Trials for Sustainability (ARTS). This program conducts trials in 15 different locations throughout the United States evaluating resilience, disease-resistance, drought tolerance, heat/cold tolerance, and soil and nutrient adaptability. After accumulating two seasons' worth of data, they have announced their first winning roses. [Read more.](#)



PRFCT Tips

Looking for short ecological messages to share with clients, neighbors, or friends? Perfect Earth Project offers eco-tips in your inbox. [Click for the latest tip](#) and to sign up for future emails.



Looking for Volunteer Homeowners near Boston

Woods Hole Research Center is looking for volunteers to allow scientists to visit their suburban properties several times between June and August 2017. The researchers will explore how yard management affects the composition of plants, birds, insect pollinators, and soil in the greater Boston metropolitan area. Volunteers are sought from the following towns: Hingham, Ipswich, Melrose, Middleborough, Needham, Newton, Norwell, Norwood, Reading, Rowley, Scituate, Sharon, Stoneham, Plymouth, Walpole, Waltham, Weymouth, and Woburn. Sign up online at: surveymonkey.com/r/yardfuturesBoston.

For questions contact Margot McKlveen, project manager: 508-444-1543

or mmcklveen@whrc.org

Christopher Neill, senior scientist: 508-444-1559 or cneill@whrc.org



Evening with Experts Videos Available Online

Grow Native Massachusetts has posted videos of three new presentations by native plant experts. Videos may be viewed for free. [Find out more.](#)



Local Pollinators Face Mounting Survival Challenges

ecoRI provides an update on the health of pollinators and shares tips from the Audubon Society for helping pollinators during Pollinator Month and every month. [Read more.](#)



Grants!

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

NFWF's Pulling Together Initiative invites applications for grants funding projects that conserve natural habitats by preventing, managing, or eradicating invasive and noxious plant species. Pre-proposals due July 12, 2017; full proposals due September 19, 2017. [Find out more.](#)

Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation offers grants in communities where Lowe's operates stores and distribution centers. The Foundation's Community Partners grant program supports nonprofit organizations and municipalities undertaking high-need projects, such as building renovations and upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades, and safety improvements. Applications for the fall funding cycle will be accepted from July 3 to August 25, 2017. [Find out more.](#)

Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI) Community Grants

TURI grants support organizations creating and promoting healthier communities throughout the MA Commonwealth by raising awareness and education about safer alternatives.

Deadline: June 23, 2017. [Find out more.](#)



Call for Presenters & Exhibitors

RootSkills Conference

The Grassroots Fund seeks up to 40 presenters to speak at the annual RootSkills Conference on November 30 - December 2 in Manchester, NH. Qualified trainers and organizers are invited to submit exciting, innovative workshops for consideration. RootSkills

aims to connect community organizers and nonprofits working to address social justice challenges and improve community health, community resilience, and the environment in New England. Proposals are due by July 14, 2017. [Click for more information.](#)

MA Green Careers Conference

Present or exhibit at the 2017 [MA Green Careers Conference](#) on October 5-6. Send your 200-word proposal for a presentation to jenboudrie@gmail.com. To exhibit, email for details: jenboudrie@gmail.com.



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

June 16-18 - [Native Plant Communities: A Weekend Retreat with Darrel Morrison](#); Cornwall, NY.

June 18-24 - [Bogs and Fens: Maine Peatlands](#); Steuben, ME.

June 19 - [Gowanus Green + Blue 10th Birthday Bash](#); Brooklyn, NY; 7:00pm.

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 22 - [Topics in Landscape IPM](#); Milford, MA; 8:30am-12:30pm.

June 24 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating Native Plants](#); sites throughout Massachusetts; 12:00-4:00pm.

June 24 - [Gardening with the Masters Tour](#); sites around Rhode Island; 10:00am-4:00pm.

June 24-25 - [Gardening with the Masters Garden Tour](#); sites around Rhode Island; 10:00am-4:00pm.

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 27 - [Dealing with Ticks: Protection & Prevention Strategies](#); Andover, MA; 7:00pm.

June 27-29 - [One Water Summit](#); New Orleans, LA.

June 28-29 - [The Basics of Social Entrepreneurship](#); Conway, MA.

June 30 **ELA Event**→[Birds & Bees: Meadows and Native Field Trials](#); Shelburne, VT; 1:00-3:00pm.

July 2-8 - [Sedges and Rushes: Identification and Ecology](#); Steuben, ME.

July 9 **ELA Event**→[Tried and True Natives](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

July 11 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Irrigation Tools and Techniques at The Greenway and Seaport Parks](#); Boston, MA; 10:00-12:00pm.

July 11- [Drought-Tolerant Plants for the Dog Days of Summer](#); Boston, MA; 6:30-8:30pm.

July 13-17 - [The Design Continuum: Past-Present-Prospect](#); Boston, MA.

July 20 **ELA Event**→[Phyto Filtration: The Power of Plants](#); Mendon, MA; 9:30-11:30am.

July 20 - [Earth Care Farm Compost Tour: Soil Fertility and Garlic Harvesting/Curing](#); Charlestown, RI; 5:30pm.

July 21 - [Annual Wood Plant Conference](#); Swarthmore, PA; 9:00am-4:30pm.

July 23 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Landscaping for Wildlife - Gardening with a Purpose](#); Walpole, NH; 1:00-3:00pm.

July 25 **ELA Event**→[Alternatives to Traditional Lawns](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-5:00pm.

July 26 - [UMass Turf Research Field Day](#); South Deerfield, MA; 8:00am-1:00pm.

July 27 **ELA Eco-tour**→[In Pursuit of Balanced Ecosystems, Land Stewardship, and the Perfect Loaf](#); Norwich, VT; 10:30am-12:30pm.

August 3-4 - [Art and Land Conservation Symposium](#); Waterville, ME.

August 5-6 - [Mother Earth News Fair](#); Albany, OR.
 August 9 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Native Plants for Professionals](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:00pm.
 August 10&19 - [Practical Pruning](#); Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY.
 August 11-13 - [NOFA Summer Conference](#); Amherst, MA.
 August 12 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating Native Plants](#); sites throughout Massachusetts; 12:00-4:00pm.
 August 19 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Lush, Lovely, and Lawn-Free Gardens](#); Brookline, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
 August 27-September 1 - [7th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#); Foz do Iguassu, Brazil.
 August 30, September 2&13 **ELA Event**→[Native Woody Plant Materials](#); Framingham, MA.

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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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Ecological Landscape Alliance | 617-436-5838 | ELA.info@comcast.net | WWW.Ecolandscaping.org

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