



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

## March 2017

The 2017 ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace featured another round of inspiring speakers thanks to the tireless efforts of the Conference Committee. Thank you to the attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, and volunteers who supported ELA's 23rd successful Conference & Eco-Marketplace. And welcome to the many new ELA members who joined ELA when they registered for the conference. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at future events. As soon as one conference ends, preparations for the next begins. Whether you attended this year's conference or not, [let us know](#) if there is a topic ELA should explore or a speaker we should investigate.

Articles in this month's newsletter consider [soil - the foundation of the landscape](#). We also take a look at a project from groundSwell Designs that recently won the [Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association award](#) for professional excellence in landscape design. But, don't stop at the articles. The newsletter always includes many items of interest, including [grant opportunities](#), [events](#), and [job postings](#). I hope you find something that catches your interest. *MS*



### **The Soil We Grow In**

by Bruce Fulford

Growing up with his feet in the soil, Bruce Fulford saw how rich, productive soil developed in nature and learned the care required to maintain it. He now operates City Soil in Boston and puts his knowledge to work developing urban landscapes that support their communities. [Read the article.](#)



### **Feed the Soil; Feed the Plants**

by Mike Murray

Plants need to eat and in people-pressured environments how can we replicate the nutrients provided by decomposing leaf litter in the forest? One practitioner has devised his own organic solution. [Read the article.](#)



### **Start with the Soil**

by Steven Phillips

Our connection with each other and our environment, the entire web of life, begins with a diverse soil ecology. Supporting soil inhabitants is the best way to build thriving sustainable landscapes. [Read the article.](#)



## From Swimming Hole to Artful Landscape

by Shawn Mayers

A former swimming hole and wetland become a community gathering space in this groundSwell Designs project that was recently received a Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association Award. [Read the article.](#)

## ELA News

### Member Survey - Responses due by May 1st

As ELA looks to the future, the Board of Directors is reviewing priorities and services in order to chart the course ahead for the next five years. As key stakeholders in ELA, members are asked to provide their input. Look for the **ELA Member Survey** in your inbox. The survey is anonymous and should take no more than five minutes to complete. Thank you for participating.



### We love to hear from you, our ELA members.

Consider contributing or helping out with 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](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net).



### Ways to Support ELA Education

Support ELA Education when you shop at [AmazonSmile](https://www.smile.amazon.com). It's easy. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](https://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!



### Conference Wrap Up

#### Thank you to Our Conference Sponsors:

- Planters' Choice - Wednesday Lunch Sponsor
- North Creek Nursery - Session Sponsor
- The Conway School - Session Sponsor
- Earth & Turf - Session Sponsor

### Plant ID. Did You Accept the Challenge?

Again this year, ELA Conference attendees tested their knowledge of winter plant identification with the annual ELA Conference Plant ID Quiz. Another extremely challenging plant quiz for 2017 was curated by staff members at the New England Wild Flower Society. On Wednesday two entries tied for the most correct answers, Mollie Babize and Darryl Newman; and Oakley Payne-Meyer submitted the most correct answers on Thursday. All three win a free one-year ELA Professional Membership. Congratulations to our winners! Check your answers [here](#).



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



## Gleanings

### Eastern Trees and Warming Climate

A new study by researchers at Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts tests the vulnerability of 40 tree species to warming temperatures. [Read the article.](#)



### Winter Moth Update

University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension has released a [Winter Moth update](#) available on their website. The last paragraph provides brief information on gypsy moth.



### Herbarium Exhibit at New York Botanic Garden

A new exhibition at New York Botanic Garden in the Bronx highlights the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium from March 4-October 29. Get an [inside look at the exhibition](#). Although not generally open to the public, there will be tours of the herbarium on Earth Day 2017.



### Your Feedback Needed: Sustainable Lawn Care

If you have a lawn and live in Rhode Island, Southern Massachusetts, or Western Connecticut, the University of Rhode Island would like you to take part in an [online survey](#) about lawn care management and water quality. Fill out the survey before March 31st and receive a \$2 Amazon credit in exchange for your participation.



### Infrastructure as Permaculture

Can a paved grid of roads and sidewalks translate into ecological functions that benefit both residents and the environment? [Read the article.](#)



### Grasslands and Climate Solutions

UMass Extension offers a monthly e-newsletter with gardening tips, timely topics, and news and warnings relevant to landscapes. [Check the March issue.](#)



### Appalachia Seed Saving

By collecting seeds of thousands of native plant species in the southern Appalachian Mountains, botanist Joe-Ann McCoy hopes to safeguard these plants from future climate change. At the same time, she hopes the medicinal attributes of many of these species will attract herbal products companies to the job-scarce region. [Read the story.](#)



### Frog Watchers & Tree Spotters

University of Rhode Island is providing FrogWatcher trainings for citizen scientists during March. [Find out more.](#) Live elsewhere? Go to [FrogWatch USA](#) to find or organize a training session near you. If trees are more your thing, join the [Tree Spotters Citizen Science Program](#) at Arnold Arboretum and learn to observe and record your observations and contribute to studies on the effects of changing climate on plants. Those not in the Boston area can join Nature's Notebook and become an observer with the [National Phenology Network](#).



### Smart Garden at BBG Relies on Technology Assist

A new water garden that doubles as storage for rainwater at Brooklyn Botanic Garden integrates a technological solution to keep the pool from overflowing during extreme rainstorms. [Read more.](#)



### Garlic Mustard Challenge

Results are in from the 2016 Garden Mustard Challenge. Volunteers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire reported pulling 6,750 pounds of garlic mustard. [Read about 2016's event](#) and [register your event for 2017.](#)



## 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

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Resilient Communities** The Resilient Communities program, an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with support from Wells Fargo, helps communities prepare for future impacts associated with sea level rise, water quantity and quality, and forest conservation. By taking advantage of natural features like wetlands, resilient shorelines, urban tree canopies, natural forests and healthy upstream watersheds, communities can accrue quality of life benefits today, enhance fish and wildlife resources, and help prepare for foreseeable resiliency challenges. Click [here](#) for details. Pre Proposal deadline March 30, 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)

- March 17 - [Sustainability by Land & Sea](#); Beverly, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.  
March 18 - [Effective Erosion and Sediment Control](#); Ipswich, MA; 9:00am-11:00pm.  
March 18 - [Pruning Blueberries](#); Bolton, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.  
March 18 - [Connecticut Land Conservation Conference](#); Middletown, CT; 7:45am-6:00pm.  
March 18 - [Naked Tree I.D.](#); Smithfield, RI; 10:00am-12:00pm.  
March 21 - [Designing Plant Communities: The Art and Science of Successful Native Planting](#); Bronx, NY; 1:00-3:00pm.  
March 21 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:00pm.  
March 22 - [Soak Up the Rain New England](#); Webinar; 1:00-2:30pm EST.  
March 24 - [Mass Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.  
March 25 - [Flower to Fork: Native Plants, Farms, and Food](#); South Hadley, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.  
March 25 - [Mass Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.  
March 25 **ELA Event**→[Foundation Gardens that Say Welcome Home](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.  
March 25 - [Planning and Creating a Compact Orchard](#); Milton, MA; 9:00-11:00am.  
March 26 - [Kill Your Lawn!](#) Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.  
March 28 **ELA Webinar**→[Designing with Plant Communities in Mind](#); 12:30-1:30pm EST.  
March 28 - [Techniques for Safe Tree Felling & Cutting](#); Wellesley, MA; 2:30-4:30pm.  
March 28 - [Emerging & Persistent Diseases Threatening Our Trees](#); Wellesley, MA; 5:00-8:00pm.  
March 29 - [Best Practices for Pollinators in the Real World](#); St. Paul, MN; 8:00am-12:00pm.  
March 29-30 - [Veteran Tree Care Workshop](#); Brooklyn Botanic Garden/Green-Wood, Brooklyn, NY; 9:00am-4:00pm.  
March 30 - [Sustainable Landscapes Management](#); Wareham, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.  
March 30 - [Gardening at Greater Dixter](#); NYC; NY; 10:00-11:30am.  
March 30 **ELA Event**→[Rainwater Harvesting: Make Every Drop Count](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.  
April 2 - [Bird-Friendly Gardens](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.  
April 4 - [2017 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference](#); online and live options; 9:00am-5pm EST.  
April 5 - [How Native Plant Cultivars Affect Pollinators](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00 - 8:30pm.

April 6-7 - [New England Hardscape Expo](#); Providence, RI.  
 April 8 - [Home Orchard Establishment & Basics](#); Sherborn, MA; 8:00am-12:00pm.  
 April 8 - [Home Orchard Pest Management](#); Sherborn, MA; 1:00pm-3:00pm.  
 April 9 - [Attractive Native Plants for the Cape Cod Landscape](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.  
 April 15 - [Edible Landscaping with Fruit](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.  
 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](#).  
 May 3 - [The Challenge of a Public Native Plant Garden: Maintenance, Interpretation, and Compromise](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00 - 8:30pm.  
 May 11-13 - [Farm to Plate Conference](#); Ithaca, NY.  
 May 13 - [Grow Native Plant Sale](#); Waltham, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.  
 May 16 - [Lincoln Park](#); Lexington, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.  
 May 18 - [MA Smart Growth Conference](#); Worcester, MA.  
 May 4-20 - [Tree Stewards Education Course](#); Providence, RI; multiple days, times vary.  
 May 23 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Roger Williams Park - Artful Stormwater Solutions](#); Providence, RI; 10:30am-12:30pm.



#### **New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA**

The Public Programs Coordinator is a full-time, permanent position that is responsible for assisting with the development and execution of all public programs and projects. He/she provides exceptional customer service, takes the lead role in administering programs, and serves as an ambassador for the organization. The successful candidate will have a unique opportunity to streamline current department operations and help create a strategic vision for the Society's public programs. The Public Programs Coordinator reports to the Director of Public Programs. View the job description at:

[http://www.newfs.org/jobs/h.html/?searchterm=Public Programs Coordinator](http://www.newfs.org/jobs/h.html/?searchterm=Public+Programs+Coordinator)

#### **Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE**

Mt. Cuba Center has a wide variety of open positions including: Orchid Research Fellow (2 year position); Assistant Horticulturist (FT) ; Interpretive Specialist (FT); Public Safety Officer (4 PT positions available) ; One Year Internships in Greenhouse & Production, Natural Lands, Native Plant Curation, and Public Engagement (May 2017 to May 2018); Summer Internships in Greenhouse & Research, Ecological Gardening, and Arboriculture (May-Aug); and Seasonal Positions: Natural Lands Assistant, Grounds Maintenance Assistant, Horticulturist's Assistant, Visitor Experience Assistant (most starting in March weather-permitting). For more information view job postings at: <http://www.mtcubacenter.org/employment/%20>.

#### **Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA**

The Morris Arboretum has nine, one-year internships available starting on June 12, 2017. Positions are full-time, 40 hours per week and the compensation is \$12 per hour plus benefits including vacation, health insurance and tuition benefits. Application Deadline: February 15, 2017. The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, a 166-acre public garden in Philadelphia. The positions are open in education, urban forestry, plant protection, plant propagation, arboriculture, botany, horticulture, natural lands and the rose and flower garden. Interns work alongside experts in the public horticulture field, and take two University of Pennsylvania courses, "Understanding Plants" and "Evaluating Public Gardens." This course is offered through the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. Interns receive academic credit for successfully completing the class. Qualifications include a background in horticulture, biology, botany, landscape design, land management, or education. Complete position descriptions and apply at:

[http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/ed\\_internships.shtml](http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/ed_internships.shtml)

#### **Randall's Island Park Alliance, New York, NY**

[The Randall's Island Park Alliance](#) (RIPA) maintains a variety of planted and themed gardens and landscaped areas throughout the Park, all created using native species and sustainable practices.

Randall's Island Park Alliance is looking for a year-around meadow gardener/ecologist who responds for two wildflower meadows. This position will also assist with volunteer events and programming, as needed. Seasonal gardener positions are also available between March and November. Complete position descriptions and apply at: <https://randallsisland.org/about/employment-opportunities/>

**The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Various Locations**

Position: Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner and NRCS Partner Biologist

The Xerces Society is expanding our team to create and accelerate habitat restoration for pollinators across the country! Under the direction of Xerces Society Pollinator Conservation Program experts, and in collaboration with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state, area and field office staff, the Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planners will provide conservation planning, technical support and training focused on pollinators, monarch butterflies, other beneficial insects, and/or declining species to farmers and NRCS field office conservation planners. We are currently hiring for positions based in Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. Application deadline is February 27, 2017. For specific details for each region and application instructions, please visit the Xerces Society website: <http://www.xerces.org/job-opportunities/%20>.

**Part-time Gardener, Boston, MA**

Part-time gardener needed to help install and maintain gardens. Between 10-20 hours per week. Location within Route 128 in Boston area. Pay is competitive. Must have own transportation. Inquiries welcome. Please contact Marie for more information: [mariechieppo@me.com](mailto:mariechieppo@me.com)

**New England Environmental/SWCA, Amherst, MA.**

New England Environmental Inc. (NEE), which is now part of the SWCA Environmental Consultants family, is expanding their team and looking for an Ecological Landscape Designer/ Civil CAD Draftsperson to support the production needs of the landscape architecture, scientific, engineering capacities and who shares in the passion in delivering the highest-quality project work.

We are dedicated to sustainable design and work closely with our office of scientists, restoration specialists, hydrologists and engineers to develop dynamic solutions based on natural patterns and processes. Applicants must be highly motivated, well versed in landscape / civil construction methodology, have a strong background in stormwater management/Green Infrastructure and Watershed Management and take initiative. Must be interested in working in a fast paced multi-disciplinary environmental firm working on a variety of project types and scales. For full job description and to apply, visit: <https://careers-swca.icims.com/jobs/9874/ecological-landscape-designer/job>

**Green City Growers: Garden Educator Urban Farmer, Greater Boston Area**

Our education programs are growing and we are looking for garden educators to join our team. This position will specialize in working with education programs, but the farmer should expect to work with a variety of client types and ages. This position will start at the end of February as a part-time position transitioning to full-time March 20th until early November. [Click here for the full job posting.](#)

**Green City Growers: Director of Operations, Greater Boston Area**

We are looking for a Director of Operations to oversee the maintenance of all facilities and vehicles and to manage the logistics of all field operations. The Director of Operations oversees the installation of vegetable and fruit production systems that range from raised beds and in-ground row crop farms, to deck and rooftop "green roofs". The Director of Operations collaborates and works effectively to support GCG's other departments (i.e., sales, administrative, and horticultural) and ensure efficiency. This is a full-time, salaried position to begin immediately. [Click here for the full job posting.](#)

**Groundswell, Ithaca, NY**

A number of fulltime and part-time positions are available with Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming in Ithaca, NY:  
Farming & Business Specialist

Development & Fundraising Manager  
Communications Specialist  
Farming Assistant

For detailed information and to apply, go to <http://groundswellcenter.org/employment/>.

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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](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

 Forward to a Friend