



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

May

If you've never been an ELA member or have let your membership lapse, now is a great time to sign up or renew and [take advantage of lower membership fees](#) before July 1. After remaining unchanged for a decade, the rates for Professional and Company memberships will increase for the coming fiscal year. Lock in your membership now and enjoy member discounts on [summer eco-tours](#) and all events taking place over the next 12 months.

If you've already renewed your membership, we don't want you to feel left out. ELA would welcome your contribution to a newly established [Capital Fund](#) designated to help ELA keep up-to-date with developing technology. In appreciation for your support, we'll recognize your donation in an upcoming newsletter. *MS*



Native Shrubs to Consider for Ecological Landscapes in the Northeast

by Anthony J. Zemba

Now that spring is here and our migrant songbirds have returned to our yards, gardens, and woodlands, it is a time to consider giving something back to these amazing creatures in return for their beautiful color and melodic songs. Now is the time to scorn the barberry, privets, and other nasty invasives in favor of native shrubs with high wildlife value. [Read the](#)

[article.](#)



California Native Plants Gain Popularity among Suburbanites

by Bernadette Balics

Thanks to mandatory water use cutbacks, turf removal rebates, and media reports on the plight of monarch butterflies and European honeybees, California homeowners are in search of California native plants. There's a learning curve, to be sure, but with a little education and demonstration, homeowners grow to appreciate native offerings. [Read the article.](#)



Mass-produced Materials and the Garden or What I Found Across the Street

by Benjamin Crouch

Find out how one designer puts Massachusetts at the heart of his designs using local materials from brick to stone to locally harvested and sawn wood. Learn what is gained by seeking out the local Mass-produced product over the mass-produced. [Read the article.](#)



Bringing Butterflies to Martha Jones Elementary School

by Bruce Wenning

A former student's Eagle Scout project provides students at his former elementary school with a place to learn about butterfly and pollinator conservation. From plant and insect research, through acquiring donations of plants and materials, to successful installation and follow-up maintenance, view the evolution of a butterfly garden from inception through completion and find out lessons learned along the way. [Read the article.](#)



Can Electric Equipment Revolutionize Landscape Maintenance?

by Jamie Banks

Quiet Communities, a nonprofit organization based in Lincoln, MA provides education about the deleterious effects of gas-powered landscape maintenance on our health and environment. Director Jamie Banks is a vocal advocate for transitioning the landscape maintenance industry to the range of commercial electric equipment now on the

market. [Read the article.](#)

ELA News



Out of Control - ELA to Hold Chemical-Free Weed Control Workshop

Invasive plants are out of control. We find them along roads, deep in forests, lurking in our own backyards. But is use of herbicides out of control, too? Are there viable options for regaining control without the use of chemicals?

ELA presents a unique 4-hour workshop focused on invasives control Wednesday, July 29 from 1:00-5:00pm, immediately following the 2015 ELA Annual Meeting. Six speakers will consider non-chemical control of invasives from a variety of perspectives and consider whether there are

situations that defy a chemical-free approach. In a panel discussion wrap-up, our experts will take on your toughest questions. [Click here to view program details and register.](#)

Taking place at Garden in the Woods' Education Center, in Framingham, MA this workshop promises to explore many chemical-free control options in a discussion with experienced professionals. ELA members are encouraged to arrive at 12:30 for a brief annual meeting before the special program begins at 1:00. As a special benefit of membership, ELA members receive a discount and will be given registration priority for this event. Registration is required and space is limited.



ELA South Shore Members Meet to Socialize

ELA members on the South Shore met in April for an evening of socializing and swapping landscape stories at the second ELA Members' Reception. Members were welcomed by Evelyn Strawn of Southeastern Pine Barrens Alliance (SEMPBA), an ELA collaborator, who hosted the April event at SEMPBA's new Community Center.



According to Theresa Sprague, ELA Vice-President and South Shore member, "This intimate and informal gathering gave members an opportunity to share stories and plans as we were all getting ready to jump into the upcoming season. We enjoyed meeting new friends, catching up with old ones, and lots of laughs throughout the evening."

Pictured in top photo: Amy Wolfson, BlueFlax Design; Kristin Andres, Conservation Agent, Town of Chatham; and Keith Johnson, Billingsgate Land Management (left to right). Pictured in bottom photo: Michael

Talbot, founding member of ELA, and Adrian Punch, Harrow and Seed (left to right).

Would you like to schedule a Members' Event in your area? Email ela.info@comcast.net to get started.

Nominate Your Project for an Eco-Workshop



Do you have a client who wants a green roof, rain garden, rainwater harvesting system, or an aquatic habitat (garden pond, pond-less water feature, or waterfall)? Or, perhaps you have always wanted one of these ecological elements in your own landscape. For the cost of materials alone, you or your client could take advantage of ELA professional expertise and free installation by participating as a project site for an upcoming Eco-Workshop. For more information and to nominate a project for consideration, please contact Trevor Smith trevscape@comcast.net.



Save the Dates for ELA's 2016 Conference

ELA's 22nd Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace will be held at the [UMass Amherst Campus Center](#) on March 9 and 10, 2016. According to Penny Lewis, ELA Executive Director, "We've already received lots of positive feedback on the new venue, and we're very enthusiastic about connecting with ecological researchers and educators who are accomplishing great work at UMass." The UMass Center offers conference venue and hotel accommodations on the same site with some tantalizing local food options.

Great education, great networking, great new venue. Don't miss out; save March 9 & 10 for ELA!

Gleanings

Rhode Island Offers "Green" Turf Certification The Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management (RIDEM) now offers a Sustainable Turf Management Program to prevent pollution (P2) in the turf maintenance industry in Rhode Island. This sector includes landscapers; golf courses; cemetery caretakers; and municipal public works, parks, and recreation departments. The goal of P2 is to reduce sources of pollution.

The program is funded by an EPA grant and aims to promote reduced use of pesticides and fertilizers, increased water conservation and soil conservation, and greater green infrastructure. Under this program, landscapers can certify as green businesses by filling out of a checklist ([click for pdf](#)). The checklist is a self-certification document that allows DEM both to survey the industry on current pollution prevention and to promote greener practices, including organic land care principles and practices. For additional information, contact Ann Battersby at ann.battersby@dem.ri.gov.



MA Climate Action Tool in Development

Are you worried about the impacts of climate change on the wildlife, natural resources, or infrastructure you care about? Do you feel overwhelmed by the information available but still not sure what local actions you can take to help prepare for the changes ahead? Help the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst develop a Fish and Wildlife Climate Action Tool that will identify climate change impacts and vulnerabilities and identify potential adaptation strategies to begin addressing these challenges. Take their [online questionnaire](#). The questionnaire has 24 questions and will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete. The data collected will be aggregated for reporting and will not be used with personal/organizational attribution.



COGdesign Seeks Landscape Architects & Designers

Looking for a way to give back to your community? Consider joining [Community Outreach Group](#) to create landscape design projects in underserved urban neighborhoods. You can read about current projects underway and those needing support on the [COG website](#).

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

- May 16 - [Native Plant Sale, Grow Native Massachusetts](#); Waltham, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.
- May 16 - [Spring Festival & Plant Sale](#); Mattapan, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.
- May 16 - [Gardeners' Fair at Elm Bank](#); Wellesley, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- May 17 - [Edible Wild Plant Walk with Hannah Jacobson-Hardy](#); Greenfield, MA; 2:00-4:00pm.
- May 20 - [Xerces Society Pollinator Conservation Short Course](#); Dover, MA; 9:00am-4:30pm.
- May 21 **ELA Event**→[Alumnae Valley at Wellesley College](#); Wellesley, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.
- May 23 - [From Container Gardens to Rain Gardens](#); Andover, MA; 7:00-8:00pm.
- May 27, June 3 & 10 - [Native New England Shrubs](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-1:30pm.
- May 28 - [Weed Walkabout; Arnold Arboretum](#), Jamaica Plain, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
- May 28 - [Grow Your Own Meadow](#); Whately, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.
- May 29 - [Coastal Plants 2015: Moving Beyond Just Beachgrass](#); Woods Hole, MA; 8:00am-3:15pm.
- May 30 - [Grow Your Own Meadow](#); Middlefield, CT; 1:00-3:00pm.

May 30 - [Pine Fest: A Pine Barrens Multicultural Celebration](#); Myles Standish State Forest; 10:00am-4:00pm.

May 30 - [Hope for Threatened Trees](#); West Tisbury, MA; 10:00-11:00am.

May 30 - [Managing Invasive Plants: Lecture and Lyman Environs Tour](#); Waltham, MA; 10:30am-12:00pm.

May 31-June 6 - [Trees and Shrubs of Northeastern North America: Identification and Ecology](#); Steuben, ME. Check [website](#) for additional events.

June 1 - [Regional Food Security: Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change](#); Springfield, MA; 6:30-8:30pm.

June 4 - [Best Management Practices for Minimizing Turf Pests](#); Milford, MA; 8:30am-12:30pm.

June 5 **ELA Event**→[Sustainable Sites Tour](#) - Rhode Island; 9:30am-3:00pm.

June 9 - [Densely Vegetated Rain Gardens: Award-Winning Stormwater Streetscape](#); Lancaster, PA; 4:30pm.

June 11 **ELA Event**→[Prospect Park Lakeside Restoration: The Magical Blending of Esthetics and Ecology](#); Brooklyn, NY; 6:00-8:00pm.

June 11 - [Best Management Practices for Minimizing Landscape Pests](#); Hadley, MA; 8:30am-12:30pm.

June 14-20 - [Mosses: Structure, Ecology, and Identification](#); Steuben, ME. Check [website](#) for other related events.

June 16, 23, & 30 **ELA Event**→[Herbaceous Native Plants for Professionals](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-1:30pm.

June 18 **ELA Event**→[The Green Alley at Boston Architectural College - Urban Solutions for the Future](#); Boston, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

June 18 - [Proven Biological Control Programs for Indoor and Outdoor Production of Ornamentals](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-3:30pm.

June 22-26 - [APGA Conference: Watering Our Roots to Grow Our Communities](#); Minneapolis, MN.

June 23-24 - [A Hands-On Wetland Restoration Workshop for Professionals](#); Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnstable, MA.

June 27 **ELA Event**→[Reclaiming the Land: Successful Invasives Management](#); Sudbury, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

July 11 **ELA Event**→[Lush, Lovely, and Lawn-Free Gardens](#); Brookline Village Walking Tour, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

July 14, 21 & 28 **ELA Event**→[Landscape for Life](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-12:00pm.

July 14-28 - [Hydrangeas 2015 International Conference](#); Sandwich, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

July 16 **ELA Event**→[A Path to Beauty and Bounty: Building a Sustainable Eco-System](#); Portsmouth, RI; 4:00-6:00pm.

June 25 **ELA Event**→[Beaver: Building Habitat - Improving Eco-Systems](#); Princeton, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

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

August 6 **ELA Event**→[A River Runs Through It: Daylighting of the Neponset River at Gillette Stadium](#); 10:00 am - 1:00pm.

August 18 **ELA Event**→[Guiding the Rain: Aesthetic Form - Ecological Function](#); 9:00am-11:00pm.



Executive Director - Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association

CT NOFA is seeking an experienced, energetic, and visionary leader to assume the position of executive director. The organization has distinguished itself as the first and leading grassroots association advocating for organic food, farming, gardening and land care in Connecticut, connecting people in the sustainable local food and land care movements with organic resources and education.

The Board of CT NOFA invites applications from interested individuals as well as nominations from third parties. Find out more about the organization at www.ctnofa.org or [click for the full job description and application instructions](#).

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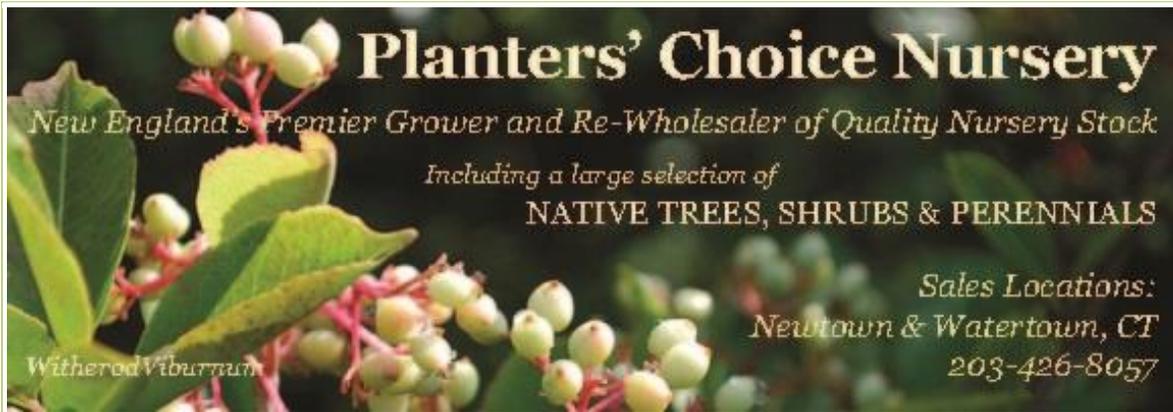
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Nancy DuBrule Clemente, Northford, CT





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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*