



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

## November 2016

It has been a year for the record books in many ways. But, with challenges come lessons learned and experiences to apply next year, next season. This month, several articles revisit the maintenance theme of the ELA Season's End Summit and look back at the season from a variety of perspectives. After the very successful Summit in central Massachusetts, ELA will be in Brooklyn, NY in December with a stellar lineup of plant experts focused on [Creating Ecological Plant Communities](#). One of Brooklyn Botanic Garden's experts (and a symposium panelist) presents a related article in this month's newsletter. We also provide a *Garden Insect Primer* in time for winter reading and study.

As the growing season draws to a close and we hunker down for cold weather and storms, we all look forward to a good read - whether the latest novel by a favorite author or the recent online musings posted by a favorite organization. In this season of thanks, we offer our gratitude to all of the ELA Newsletter readers and supporters and hope you enjoy this season's bounty. *MS*



### **About the Weather, Job Satisfaction and "Maintenance" A Season in Review** by Thomas Berger

Landscape designer and stone sculptor Thomas Berger guides us through a look back at the 2016 season with a personal focus on his quest to manage his small business while still finding enjoyment in designing the gardens he loves. He looks for and finds balance and bliss with a few key changes. [Read the article.](#)



### **Managing "Wear and Tear" in Heavy-use Landscapes** by Ronnit Bendavid-Val

As parks and gardens get more and more use by the public especially in urban areas, many are seeing increasing effects of this heavier use on the horticultural elements. While greater enjoyment of our green spaces is a plus, the effects of substantially greater use have pushed the industry to respond in a number of ways, including by developing new or more intensive management strategies. [Read the article.](#)

*Ronnit Bendavid-Val shares more of her expertise when ELA joins Brooklyn Bridge Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Bridge Park for a day-long symposium for landscape professionals. [Creating Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep into Plant Knowledge with the Masters](#) takes place on December 9, 2016 at Brooklyn Botanic Garden.*



### **More than Just a Pollinator Garden** by Tara Mitchell

Pollinator Gardens are a recent concept. Reminiscent of the Victory Gardens promoted by the government during World War I and II, the Pollinator Garden effort is intended to help cover food shortages, only this time, for insects. How is one urban meadow garden providing for pollinators and other garden visitors? [Read the article.](#)



### Designing with Maintenance in Mind

Contributors: M.L. Altobelli, Jennifer Nichols, Darcy Paige

As we come to the end of a long season of garden maintenance, we've asked a few ELA members to share three recommendations they want to keep in mind when they start designing for next season. [Read the article.](#)



### Garden Insect Primer: Getting to Know Common Garden Insect Pest Groups and their Associated Signs of Plant Damage

by Bruce Wenning

There are 31 orders of insects, but of those only 11 orders contain economically important pests of trees, shrubs, garden plants, lawns, vegetable crops, wood, and fiber. Most of the insect damage caused to garden plants plaguing garden maintenance people and garden designers are concentrated in just seven orders. Use this primer to start identifying what's damaging your plants. [Read the article.](#)



### Leadership Envisions and Defines the Dream

by Laurence Coronis

As the end of another busy season draws near, it is an important time to set the course for you and for your company's future. What should be your considerations? [Read the article.](#)

#### ELA News

##### Fall & Winter Happenings

ELA members receive discounts on registrations to all our [educational events](#). Keep checking the schedule as we add more great events like these:

##### [Creating Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep in Plant Knowledge with The Masters](#)

This special ELA collaboration with Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Bridge Park taking place in New York on December 9 offers a unique opportunity to gain functional horticultural information from professionals with a deep understanding of plants. Morning coffee and catered lunch included.

Do you want to get your company in front of ecologically-focused professional gardeners, horticulturists, landscape architects, and designers. Become a [Symposium Sponsor!](#)

[Landscape Heroes: Carbon, Water, and Biodiversity](#) What is the intersection of soil and climate and are the implications for our land care practices? This wide-ranging program brings ELA together with Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA Mass), and Organic Land Care of NOFA/CT for a full-day of presentation on January 31, Amherst, MA. Organic lunch included with registration.

Remember that ELA members may also attend all live and archived webinars for free! Find the complete lineup of Season 4 webinars in our series [A Focus on Sustainability](#).



##### Put on a Smile When You Shop Online!

If you are shopping online for gifts during the gift-giving season, shop through [AmazonSmile](#) and a portion of every eligible purchase will support ELA education. It's easy. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), enter your account as usual, specify Ecological Landscape Alliance as your preferred charity, and start shopping. It will put a smile on your face.





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## Gleanings

### Grants!

**Innovative Urban Projects:** The Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence recognizes transformative urban places distinguished by their economic and social contributions to cities throughout the contiguous US. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Deadline December 8, 2016.

**Enhancing Land Conservation in New England:** The Fields Pond Foundation offers grants to community-based nature and land conservation organizations that increase environmental awareness by involving local residents in conservation issues. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Grants awarded throughout the year.

**Habitat Management:** For the second year, MassWildlife is awarding grants to support private and municipal efforts to manage conservation lands to benefit wildlife. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Deadline November 15, 2016.

**Community Forestry:** TD Green Streets supports innovative practices in community forestry with grants to municipalities in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Now open for 2017 program applications.

**Recreational Trails:** MA Department of Conservation and Recreation will award two to three grants focused on statewide trail education initiatives. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Deadline February 1, 2017.



### Replacement Elm Trees

Elm Research Institute, Keene, NH offers Grow-to-Order Elm trees for delivery in the fall of 2019. The 12-foot, 2-inch caliper Liberty Elms sell for \$50 (price locked in for the next three years) and come with a lifetime warranty against Dutch elm disease. [Find out more.](#)



### Conway School Presentations

Join the Conway School on November 18 & 19 as the class of 2017 presents individual ecological design projects that fit the clients' needs to the specific ecology of sites in nearby cities and towns. RVSP required. [Click for more information.](#)



### Opportunity to Present

Workshop proposals on a range of conservation topics are being sought for the 2017 MA Land Conservation Conference to be held March 25, 2017 in Worcester, MA. Proposals are due by November 23, 2016. Details are on the [Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition](#) website.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Grow Native Massachusetts, Waltham, MA

We are looking for a skilled manager who is super well organized, a good communicator (oral and written), and has a passion for the importance of native plants to all landscapes, big and small. He/she will take a leadership role in daily operations and fundraising, as well as program management, working with one other paid staff person and our dedicated volunteers. This is a unique opportunity to help lead a growing nonprofit organization that is making a difference across the state. Read the job description. <http://www.grownativemass.org/joinus/volunteer>

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

November 16 **ELA Webinar**→[Soil Amendments: What Works, What Should Be Avoided?](#); 1:00-2:00pm EST.

November 18 - [Stormwater for Towns: Save Money! Save Streams and Lakes!](#) Gardener, MA; 9:00-11:30am.

November 18-20 - [Restoring Oceans, Restoring Climate: Facing Fire & Ice, Food & Water, Flood & Drought](#); Cambridge, MA.

November 19 - [Deconstructing the American Landscape](#); New London, CT; 8:30am-4:30pm.

November 21 - [Winter Moth and Gypsy Moth Outbreaks in New England](#); Newton, MA; 7:00pm.

November 30 - [Latest & Greatest EPA Tools for Implementing Green Infrastructure](#) - Webinar; 1:00-2:30pm EST.

November 30 - [Transforming Our Food System](#); Cambridge, MA; 5:30-7:30pm.

November 30-December 2 - [New England Grows](#); Boston, MA.

December 1 - [Historical Ethnobotany of Southern New England: Recovering and Repatriating Indigenous Plant Knowledge](#); Framingham, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

December 4 **ELA Event**→[City Gardening with New England Natives](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

December 4 - [Organic No-Till and Intensive Vegetable Production: Tools and Techniques](#); Narragansett, RI; 10:00am-4:00pm.

December 4-6 - [6th Annual Soil & Nutrition Conference](#); Stockbridge, MA.

December 8 **ELA Event**→[Meadows 1 2 3](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:30pm.

December 8 **ELA Webinar**→[Evaluating Conservation Landscape Designs](#); 7:00-2:00pm EDT.

December 9 **ELA Symposium**→[Creating Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep into Plant Knowledge with the Masters](#); Brooklyn, NY; 8:00am-5:00pm.

December 14 - [Low-Maintenance Plants](#) - Webinar; 11:00am-12:00pm EST.

January 9-February 17 - [Winter School for Turf Managers](#); Amherst, MA.

January 11 **ELA Webinar**→[Keeping Invasive Plants Out of the Landscape](#); 1:00-2:00pm EST.

January 11 - [Naturalistic Gardening](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

January 14 - [NOFA/Mass Winter Conference](#); Worcester, MA.

January 18 **ELA Screening**→[Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home](#); Framingham, MA; 2:00-3:30pm.

January 20 - Pine Barrens Regional Conservation Forum; save the date.

January 20-22 - [NOFA-NY Winter Conference - Long Live the Farmer: Diversity & Biodiversity](#); Saratoga Springs, NY.

January 21 **ELA Screening**→[Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home](#); Framingham, MA; 4:00-5:30pm.

January 23 **ELA Webinar**→[The Insider's Guide to Assessing SITES Viability](#); 1:00-2:00pm EDT.

January 28 - [NOFA-NH Winter Conference: Grow Well, Eat Well](#); Concord, NH.

January 28-29 - [NOFA-NJ Winter Conference: Food & Farming in the Garden State](#); New Brunswick, NJ.

January 31 **ELA Collaboration**→[Landscape Heroes: Carbon, Water, and Biodiversity](#); Amherst, MA; 8:00am-5:00pm.

**Thank you for subscribing to ELA Newsletter! If you'd like to support our efforts to educate and promote sustainable and ecological landscape practices, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. We appreciate your support!**

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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*

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