

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

October 2017



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

## From the Editor

Most weeks the plight of pollinators is part of a dark cloud of environmental news. ELA members and other ecologically-focused groups look for hope: one plant, one garden, one property at a time. For an entire hopeful day, join ELA at [The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#), ELA's Season's End Summit, and enjoy an exploration of the interconnectedness of plants and pollinators in the landscape. Later in November, the discussion expands to the urban setting with [The Evolving Role of Urban Landscapes](#) at Winterthur Gardens and [The Ecological Plant Conference](#) in Brooklyn, NY.

In preparation for November's events, articles in this month's newsletter look at plants and pollinators with contributions from speakers at the Summit and Winterthur. We also have an up-close account of a controlled burn conducted at Winterthur this past spring in a bid to rejuvenate a meadow and woodland. The conference at Winterthur includes an opportunity to explore the property, including this revitalized area. We also have a peek at the latest Plants for Pollinators guide from Xerces Society focused on native thistles. Xerces guides, [pollinator-friendly plant lists](#), and [regional resources](#) are indispensable resources as you plan that next pollinator habitat. *MS*



### Planting for Pollinators

by Jack Brodie, James Hitchmough, and Michael Livingstone

How can landscape practitioners best support native pollinating insects in urban landscapes? Research at the University of Sheffield sheds light on this increasingly important topic. [Read the article.](#)

James Hitchmough presents with ELA on November 14, 2017 at [The Evolving Role of Urban Landscapes](#) in Winterthur, DE.



### Plants for Birds: Plant It and They Will Come

by Tod Winston

In the face of overwhelming environmental problems such as habitat loss and climate change, Audubon Society's Plants for Birds Program encourages landscapes that support birds. The newly launched native plants database empowers individuals across the country to take action right where they live, to create a more nourishing environment for the birds they know and love. [Read the article.](#)

Tod Winston, Program Manager of Audubon's Plants for Birds Program, presents at [The Season's End Summit](#), November 1, 2017 at the Community Harvest Project Barn in North Grafton, MA.



## Functional Fire - Prescribed Burning at Winterthur by Madeline Banks

Any kind of prescribed burning requires thoughtful, careful planning to ensure a safe and beneficial burn. This past spring, a field separating two wood lots at Winterthur was burned to control invasive species, redefine the wood/field edge, and regenerate a previously forested section of land. [Read the article.](#)

Join ELA on November 14, 2017 at [The evolving Role of Urban Landscapes](#) in Winterthur, DE. Registration includes guided and self-directed tours of the property.



## Bringing Back Native Thistles by Xerces Society

Often confused with their prickly, invasive relatives such as Canada thistle, native thistles are benign and valuable plants that fill a variety of significant niches alongside more esteemed wildflowers such as coneflowers, prairie clovers, and blazing star. [Read the article.](#)

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## ELA News

### Upcoming Events

November is packed with ELA events, each featuring a unique lineup of speakers and topics. Don't miss out; seats are filling:

**November 1:** [Season's End Summit: The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#), North Grafton, MA.

**November 14:** [The Evolving Role of Urban Landscapes](#), Winterthur, DE. [Sponsorships available.](#)

**November 30:** [The Ecological Plant Conference](#), Brooklyn, NY. [Sponsorships available.](#)

Hot new topics, knowledgeable presenters, your own comfy chair! **The Focus on Sustainability** webinar series for 2017-18 has begun. Check the list of presentations: [A Focus on Sustainability](#). Remember that ELA members attend webinars for free and have access to all archived events. Check the complete list of ELA events [here](#).

**Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits  
- including discounts on events.**

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## Gleanings

### Tests Show Nerve Agents in Global Honey Samples

New research conducted on worldwide samples of honey clearly reveals the global exposure of vital pollinators to potent pesticides known to harm bees. [Read the article in The Guardian.](#) [Read the research in Science.](#)



### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Cities to Be Defined by Water**

Cities look to low-impact stormwater solutions that mimic the natural water cycle to help them become more resilient given anticipated increase in storm intensity and related flooding. [Read more in CO.DESIGN.](#)



### **The Global Spread of Bark Beetles**

Warming temperatures are fueling the expansion of pine and spruce beetle outbreaks across North America, Europe, and Siberia, ravaging tens of thousands of square miles of woodlands. Scientists warn that some forest ecosystems may never recover. [Read more YaleEnvironment 360.](#)



### **The Flood-proof City**

What would an entirely flood-proof city look like? The wetter the better. From sponge cities in China to "berms with benefits" in New Jersey five projects are already treating stormwater as a resource rather than a hazard. [Read more in The Guardian.](#)



### **American Public Gardens Symposium**

New England Wild Flower hosts a symposium focused on native plants and plant conservation issues October 25-28. Registration includes tours of Arnold Arboretum and Rose Kennedy Greenway and two optional events: hands-on workshop on developing risk assessments and tour of Poly Hill Arboretum. [Learn more.](#)



### **Orange-striped Oakworm Defoliating Rhode Island Trees**

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) recently reported that small concentrations of orange-striped oakworm caterpillars (*Anisota senatoria*) have begun defoliating trees in areas of western Rhode Island. [Read more in ecoRI News.](#)



### **2018 UMass Garden Calendar Now Available!**

The 2018 UMass Garden Calendar features **Insects to Look for in Massachusetts** and includes a short segment on beneficial pollinators, as well as key information on and photos of current invasive insects of note. Includes daily tip and sunrise/sunset. Go to [umassgardencalendar.org](http://umassgardencalendar.org)

### **And Photo Contest Has Begun for 2019 Calendar**

Ever take a great garden photo and think "this would be perfect for the UMass Garden Calendar?" Public submission for the 2019 Garden Calendar are now been accepted. More information [here.](#)



### **What's Your MA Park Story?**

Environmental League of Massachusetts has launched a storytelling campaign to learn what residents and visitors love about MA state parks. [Click to learn more and to share your story.](#)



### **Conway School Hosts Info Session**

Interested in natural plant communities, riparian restoration, or land use management? Curious about landscape design, urban and regional planning, and community process? Join the Conway School for an **information session** at in Easthampton, MA on **Saturday, October 21** (10am-1pm) to learn about the kinds of topics Conway students explore while working towards their Master of Science in Ecological Design. [Learn more and register.](#)

Anyone interested in learning more about the Conway School can view student presentations of individual ecological design projects on November 17 & 18 on the Easthampton, MA campus. [Find out more.](#)



### **Elm Research Institute Offers Eastern Elm Cultivar**

Having developed the American Liberty Elm from western elm, Elm Research Institute has developed new cultivars from older, taller eastern elms, which have survived for over 200 years, one of them since the 1790s. In 2020 they will begin distributing these new cultivars and invite participants in their National Test Plot program. Participants will be supporting a nationwide effort to restore the native American Elm resistant to Dutch Elm Disease while helping collect data on its performance.

For more information call 1-800-367-3567 or order at <http://www.libertytreesociety.org/replacement.html>



### **Grants!**

#### **Rhode Island Open Space & Recreation Grants**

Grants by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) provide up to 50% matching funds to municipalities, land trusts, and non-profit conservation land organizations to preserve valuable open space in Rhode Island. This year DEM will provide up to \$4 million for projects with a maximum grant of up to \$400,000. Deadline October 27, 4:00pm.

Additionally, Rhode Island DEM Outdoor Recreation Grants are available for outdoor recreational facilities. Deadline December 1 at 3:00pm. Recreational Trail Grants are also available.

[Find out more here.](#)



### **Requests for Proposals**

#### **MA Land Conservation Conference - March 24, Worcester, MA**

The 2018 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference seeks workshop proposals for its annual, day-long training and networking event. Sessions provide land trust board members and staff, parks administrators and advocates, watershed organizations, trails and friends associations, municipal commission members and others interested in land conservation with the information, skills, and connections they need to be most effective. This year's theme is "Leading Locally in a Changing World." Workshop proposals should address land conservation topics relating to:

- Annual Theme & Emerging Issues
- Land Management & Stewardship
- Land Protection Tools & Techniques
- Legal, Tax & Compliance Matters
- Organizational Management & Fundraising
- Urban & Community Conservation

To submit a workshop proposal, [click here](#). Deadline for submissions: November 1, 2017. For questions, contact Miriam Scagnetti at [miriam.scagnetti@gmail.com](mailto:miriam.scagnetti@gmail.com).

### **MA Association of Conservation Commissions**

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) is seeking additional proposals for environmental workshops and presentations for their spring environmental conference on March 3, 2018. Please consider sending them your ideas for a workshop or a presentation on an interesting environmental topic. Click [here](#) for more information.

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

October 17 - [The Future of Landscape Maintenance](#); Maplewood, NJ; 9:00am-1:30pm.  
October 18 - [Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workshop](#); Bridgeport, CT; 9:00am-3:00pm.  
October 19 **ELA Webinar**→[Landscape Options - Focusing on Great Underused Plants](#); 7:00-8:00pm EDT.  
October 19 - [Native Plants and Pollinators Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-3:00pm.  
October 19 - [Erosion & Sediment Control Field Day](#); Kingston, RI; 8:00am-4:00pm.  
October 20-21 - [Building with Stone](#); Plainville, MA.  
October 20-22 - [Northern Woodlands Conference](#); Fairlee, VT.  
October 21 - [Developing a Comprehensive Integrated Pest Management Plan](#); Whately, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.  
October 24 **ELA Event**→[Designing a Garden for All Seasons: Autumn Edition](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.  
October 25-27 - [Partnerships for Protecting Plants and Habitats](#); Natick, MA.  
October 26-28 - [Land Trust Alliance Rally](#); Denver, CO.  
October 28 - [MACC Fall Conference](#); Sturbridge, MA; 8:00am-4:15pm.  
November 1 **ELA Event**→[Season's End Summit: The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#); Brookline Village, MA; 8:00am-4:30pm.  
November 2-4 - [Building Community Trails: A Path to Vibrant Communities](#); Leominster, MA.  
November 3 - [Turning a New Leaf Conference](#); Herndon, VA; 8:00am-5:00pm.  
November 7-10 - [NOFA Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care](#); Unity ME.  
November 8 **ELA Webinar**→[What's Cookin' in the Soil Kitchen? Understanding Engineered Soils](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.  
November 8-9 - [Wildlife Habitat Council Conservation Conference 2017](#); Baltimore, MD.  
November 10 - [Game of Logging Level 3 - Storm Damage Removal](#); Williamsburg, MA.  
November 13 **ELA Webinar**→[Groundcovers - Ecological Solutions in Place of Mulch](#); 4:00-5:00pm EDT.  
November 14 **ELA Event**→[The Evolving Role of Urban Landscapes](#); Winterthur, DE; 8:00am-4:30pm.  
November 14 - [MEES Listening Session South Coast](#); New Bedford, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.  
November 17 - ["Flora for Fauna", a Long Island Native Plant Initiative Symposium](#); Farmingdale State College, NY.  
November 17-19 - [Climate Reckoning: Paths to an Earth Restored](#); Cambridge, MA;  
November 29-December 1 - [New England Grows](#); Boston, MA.  
November 30 **ELA Event**→[New York Ecological Landscape Conference](#); Brooklyn, NY; 9:00am-4:30pm.  
November 30-December 2 - [RootSkills Training](#); Manchester, NH.  
December 2 **ELA Event**→[Seasonal Inspiration for The Winter Garden](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.  
December 9 **ELA Event**→[Meadows 1 2 3](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.  
December 12 **ELA Webinar**→[Invasive Plant Control Without Chemicals](#); 4:00-5:00pm  
December 15 **ELA Webinar**→[The Enemy of My Enemy Is My Friend - Using Biological Products to Fight Diseases and Pests](#); 12:30-1:30pm EST.

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**BABIKOW**  
SINCE 1875

### Company Profile - Babikow Greenhouses

Babikow Greenhouses is a family run wholesale nursery that started as a small vegetable farm back in 1875. It has evolved over the decades from selling vegetables and cut roses at local markets, to specializing in herbaceous perennials, including Mid-Atlantic natives, ornamental grasses, and ferns as well summer annuals, ornamental cabbage/kale and pansies.

The mission of Babikow Greenhouses is to enhance the quality of people's lives by producing sustainable plants that thrive in local landscapes. Understanding the aesthetic and healing virtues of gardens, our committed owners and cherished employees work diligently to grow the highest quality plants and serve our customers with reliability, experience and continuity that emanates from 142 years and five generations of professionalism.

Looking to the future and recognizing the tenuous state of our environment, the Babikow family is dedicated to contributing to the health of our planet and the happiness of our customers.

<https://www.babikow.com/>



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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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