

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

September 2017



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

## From the Editor

In early spring, I wrenched and pulled invasives from a corner of my lot and began the process of filling the empty spaces with native plants - tiny tree whips and divisions from elsewhere in my yard and from generous friends. As I continue to pluck newly sprouted bittersweet and burning bush, I've been inspired by the stories of restoration that appear in this month's newsletter. From a meadow in Buzzard's Bay to the riverbanks of the Nashua River and Connecticut woodlands, ecological practitioners share their successes healing landscapes.

Our hope is that butterflies and birds will flock to our restored landscapes and that they will welcome people and wildlife, too. Audubon's Plants for Birds program is one source for advice on developing bird-friendly landscapes, and the program represents one piece of [The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#) - the topic of this year's Season's End Summit. Too far to travel? One-day conferences in [Delaware](#) and [New York](#) will offer additional unique insights into ecological landscapes. There's so much to learn. *MS*



## Successful Management and Maintenance of Invaded Sites Starts with a Maintenance Plan by Theresa Sprague

Overrun with invasive plants, a one-acre coastal site on Cape Cod presented a huge restoration challenge. Working with a well-thought-out, multi-year management plan was essential to a successful outcome. [Read the article.](#)



## Ecological Restoration: A Landscape Architect's Perspective

by Anne Penniman

Brought on at the beginning of a project, the landscape architect can act proactively to protect a site and existing vegetation. However, too often, the landscape architect is enlisted after site work has destroyed soils, plantings, and natural drainage patterns. Four projects illustrate the ecological restoration strategies and planting concepts required to heal post-traumatic landscapes. [Read the article.](#)



## Expanding Riparian Forest Buffers in the Merrimack River Watershed

by Alex Krofta

Merrimack River Watershed Council and regional partners are leading the "Expanding Riparian Forest Buffers" project aimed at identifying riparian landscapes along smaller, tributary-sized drainage areas and then restoring and protecting them. [Read the article.](#)



## Lawn Gone: Nourishing Our Ecosystems with Meadows

by Mary B. O'Neill

The American Dream of homeowner-ship, good fences making good neighbors, and lush, rolling lawns - it's the mythic trifecta of life in these United States. Or is it? Homeownership is down, while fences and divisions of all kinds are up, to the point where we don't even want to see our neighbors. Perhaps it's time to rethink the last component of a life well lived - the lawn. [Read the article.](#)

## Eco-Answers from the Pros

ELA members have spent hundreds of hours learning the best ecological solutions to problems in the landscape. You can benefit from all that accumulated knowledge by posing a question to our experts. If you are stumped by a problem in your landscape or are looking for a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's Eco-Pros. Send your question to [ela\\_new@verizon.net](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net). And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of [ELA Professionals](#).



## Restoring Woodland after Construction

**Contributors: Tara Mitchell, Trevor Smith**

When my contractor built my house, he wiped out about an acre of land - mainly full sun on sand and rocks. Anything I've read said either to use a tractor or till in compost. Neither of these are practical for a homeowner, what do I know about operating a tractor, tilling an acre of New England rocky/bouldered/sandy. Wild cherry trees are attempting to pioneer the space, but it's taking a looong time. Would you have any suggestions on helping it recover into woodland? I do go out with a cart and remove the annual spring crop of rock that comes up, but it's not been anywhere near enough to help the sandy rocky acre recover. I've found little on

recovering builder destruction and I see so much of it. Any direction, information or advice you may have for a homeowner would be greatly appreciated. [Read the Pros' Answers.](#)

## ELA News

### Upcoming Events

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 members attend webinars for free and have access to all archived events. ELA also hosts three daylong, information-packed **regional events** in November. Featuring unique speaker lineups and topics, you can enjoy one, or all three:

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

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

**November 30:** [ELA's New York Ecological Landscape Conference](#), Brooklyn, NY. [Sponsorships available](#).

Check the complete list of events [here](#).

## Support ELA Education



Enjoy the ELA Newsletter? Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits.

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## Gleanings

### Focus for Stormwater Pollution Reduction: the Mall

The suburban community of Maplewood, MN had to reduce pollution to the local lake. Community planners focused on the nearby shopping mall to solve the problem. [Read more in Build a Better Burb.](#)



### Listening to Trees

Biologist David George Haskell visited 12 specific trees to study how they interact with the biological networks surrounding them. Environment360 interviews him about what trees can reveal about the complex networks that sustain life. [Read the interview in Yale Environment360.](#)



### Goldenrod for Wildlife

Contrary to common belief, goldenrod is not the main culprit responsible for seasonal allergies. Ragweed, which blooms at the same time, is the main culprit. Instead goldenrod benefits pollinators.

[Read the NWF post.](#)



### Do Trees Deter Crime?

Recently released data on Chicago's tree canopy shows a correlation between trees and lower crime rates. Chicago Region Tree Initiative, Morton Arboretum, the Field Museum, and other partner organizations developed a detailed map covering over seven counties. [Read the post.](#)



### **Ash Trees Added to Threatened Species List**

The latest update to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) [Read List of Threatened Species](#), released earlier this week, finds that even species once considered safe due to their abundance have been put at risk of extinction by human activities and their impacts on the environment. [Find out more](#). [Related event October 13](#).



### **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Surveys**

The National Park Service requires the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to remain eligible for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. Since the program was established in 1965, nearly \$100,000,000 has been awarded to every county in the state for the acquisition of conservation or park land, development of new parks, or renovation of existing parks.

Three 15-minute surveys are available - one for [land trusts](#), one for [municipal employees](#), and one for any and all [users of open space](#) in Massachusetts. Direct questions to Melissa Cryan, LWCF Stateside Coordinator, at (617) 626-1171 or [melissa.cryan@state.ma.us](mailto:melissa.cryan@state.ma.us).



### **National Guard Recognizes ELA Member**

The National Guard awarded [Native Habitat Restoration LLC](#), a local business based in Stockbridge and Sheffield, MA with the Patriot Award. Nominated by service members, The Patriot Award is for employers who go above and beyond in their support of employees in the National Guard. Sargent First Class Denis O'Connor, Jr. and Sargent Gregory Elser, both currently serving in the National Guard, nominated co-owners Sari Hoy and Jessica Toro to receive this award.

**Native Habitat Restoration, LLC** specializes in identifying and removing invasive plant species from wetlands, woodlands, meadows, river areas and rare habitats in order to return these settings to a more natural and balanced ecological state.



### **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](#).



#### **Sustainable Forestry Initiative: Conservation & Community Partnerships Grant Program**

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative's (SFI) Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program provides grants for projects that support partnerships between organizations interested in improving forest management in the U.S. and Canada and responsible procurement globally. Grants are provided in the following two categories: Community Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 support projects that connect communities to forests and educate the next generation of future forest leaders. Conservation Grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 support projects that establish methodologies to demonstrate the conservation-related values of SFI-certified forestlands. Deadline October 10, 2017. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).



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

September 15-17 - [Mother Earth News Fair](#); Seven Springs, PA.

September 20 **ELA Event**→[Seasonal Inspiration for the Fall Garden](#); Framingham, MA; 5:30-7:00pm.

September 21 - [The Foundation of Our Landscapes: Understanding Site Analysis and Soil](#); Waltham, MA; 1:00-4:30pm.

September 21 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating Meadow and Coastal Habitats at Connecticut College Arboretum](#); New London, CT; 10:00am-12:00pm.

September 23 - [Landscape and Forest Tree and Shrub Disease Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

September 23 - [Woods and Trails: A Pathway Forward](#); Sheffield, MA; 9:30am-4:00pm. ([PDF](#))

September 25 **ELA Webinar**→[The Liberated Landscape - Letting Nature Do the Work](#); 4:00-5:00pm EDT.

September 26 - [MEES Listening Session Cape & Islands](#); Brewster, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

September 27- [Plant Combinations for Beneficial Home Landscapes](#); Boston, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.

September 30 - [Working Forests for Birds, Climate Change, and Your Community](#); Hanson, MA; 8:30am-1:00pm.

October 2 - [Stream Continuity Workshop](#); Norton, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.

October 4 - [Plant Communities of Eastern Massachusetts: Vital Context for Landscape Design](#); Waltham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.

October 4 - [Fall Interest Tree and Shrub ID Walk](#); Boylston, MA; 3:00-5:00pm.

October 5 - [Massachusetts Green Careers Conference](#); Westborough, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.

October 6-7 - [Trail Building and Stewardship Skills](#); Easthampton and Northampton, MA.

October 9 **ELA Webinar**→[Artful Rainwater Design - Stormwater Designs that Enhance Aesthetics](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

October 13 [Saving the American Ash Summit](#); New York Botanical Garden, NY, NY; 10:00am-12:30pm

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 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](#); Framingham, MA.

October 26-28 - [Land Trust Alliance Rally](#); Denver, CO.

November 1 **ELA Event**→[Season's End Summit: The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#); Brookline Village, MA; 8:00am-4:30pm.

November 3-4 - [Building Community Trails: A Path to Vibrant Communities](#); Leominster, MA.

November 8 **ELA Webinar**→[Engineered Soils for Permeable Pathways](#); 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 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.

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## Employment Opportunities

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

The Director of Public Programs has an exciting opportunity to build on a strong, successful program and position it for growth and continued achievement under the Society's new strategic plan. S/he will be charged with creating innovative, effective educational programs for core audiences throughout the region and developing informal programs that attract and serve visitors to Garden in the Woods.

[Read full job description.](#)



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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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