



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

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June

Landscapes play many different roles in our lives - offering solace or inspiration, providing opportunities for learning or recreation, feeding human and non-human visitors alike. Three very different ecologically focused gardens are described in this month's newsletter. Each offers a unique experience to visitors. Yet another garden is available to ELA members living in and around the North Shore of Massachusetts this month. ELA's first Members' Reception offers members an opportunity to explore the varied landscape at the Stevens-Coolidge Place in North Andover. Look for your electronic invitation to this inaugural event and join other members to socialize and explore a unique garden setting. *MS*



Making Magic with Mosses

by Annie Martin aka Mossin' Annie

Moss landscapes offer a magical appeal with verdant expanses that seem to encapsulate our spirits with a sense of serenity. Yet, the environmental advantages of eco-friendly mosses add another element of magic through the creation of outdoor living spaces that complement natural ecosystems. As Planet Earth's oldest living land plants (450 million years old), bryophytes - mosses and their cousins, liverworts and hornworts - are native to all parts of the world. [Read the article](#)



A Cornucopia of Experiences: Teaching Gardens in the Schoolyard

by Marilyn Wyzga

With watering can in hand, a first grader earnestly speed-walks across the grass, finds a pepper plant in need of a drink, and slowly drains her can around its base. She scoots back and tags her teammate in the waiting line; he quickly scuttles off to the basket of mulch, scoops a two-handed fistful, and tucks it around the base of a young tomato plant. Joyful cheers from their classmates urge them on. The "Garden Relay" ends with the harvester carrying back a single spinach leaf in her basket, and each team member gets a taste. [Read the article](#)



Good Medicine: The Benefits of Green Infrastructure

by Thomas Benjamin

The evolution of Kent Hospital's Sustainable Campus Landscape Initiative was both capital project and Master Plan driven. In the early 2000s, Kent, located in Warwick, RI, embarked on planning major upgrades to the Emergency Department and Emergency Room, including a 1,393 square meters +/- (15,000 square-foot) Women's Imaging Center addition, substantial new parking, driveways and street frontage retaining walls. The campus's new 4,645 square meter +/- (50,000 square foot), five-story Trowbridge Data Center was also being planned at the time. In seeking stormwater permits from the state, Kent learned that it was approaching its runoff discharge limits and additional impervious surfaces would produce runoff volumes far in excess of those limits. [Read the article](#)



Climate Change Reshaping Urban Tree Populations

by Frank Carini

By the end of this century, scientists predict southern New England's seas will rise some three feet, and without major cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, they say summers here will soon resemble Georgia's dog days. Like the rest of the planet, southern New England's climate is changing, and not all of the changes are as noticeable as, say, three straight days of rain that dump a foot or so of water (2010), an October snowstorm (2011), or a superstorm that hangs around for a few days (Sandy, 2012). [Read the article](#)

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Connect with ELA at a Members' Reception Near You

You asked for more opportunities to gather and talk with other ELA members about projects and strategies, and ELA listened. This summer ELA introduces *Members' Receptions*.

Tour the Stevens-Coolidge gardens at ELA's first Members' Reception. Our inaugural event takes place at 6:30pm on June 24th in northeastern Massachusetts at the [Stevens-Coolidge Place](#) in North Andover. [Read the article](#)

Gleanings

IOBY Not NIMBY

The crowd-sourcing platform IOBY helps communities complete specific projects that make positive change. It's also a community of donors, volunteers, and leaders engaged in strengthening neighborhoods. IOBY's [Guide to Green Infrastructure, 5 Projects that any Community Can Do to Reduce Storm Water Runoff in 5 Easy Steps](#) could inspire any community to start a neighborhood project.



National Pollinators Week

This week, celebrate the hard work of the insects that make our food crops possible. The [Xerces](#) website is a great resource for information about invertebrates and especially those that are pollinators. The organization also offers pollinator-focused courses throughout the country. You'll find a few of their offerings in the ELA Events listing below.



Is Wilderness Still Relevant? Find out on June 19th

Fifty years after the advent of the Wilderness Act, daily life in the US looks much different and technological dependence and nature deficit disorder are now part of our vocabulary. What challenges and opportunities do wilderness settings offer today? Join a free live discussion with wilderness advocates, educators, and agency representatives on June 19th, 7:00pmEDT. Moderated by Orion Magazine's Erik Hoffner, this live discussion will let you hear from speakers and also offer your own thoughts. Find more information and register [here](#).



ELA Introduces Speakers Bureau

As interest in ecological solutions continues to grow, ELA is receiving an increasing number of requests for speakers with an expertise in various areas of ecological landscape design and maintenance. The ELA Board of Directors recently voted to create the ELA Speakers Bureau in order to connect our knowledgeable membership with garden clubs, green councils, and other groups looking for speakers. Any ELA member who would like to be listed should contact [Penny Lewis](#).



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

June 19 - [Identifying Inland Wetland Soils](#); UMass Amherst, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

June 24 - **ELA EVENT** → [Members' Reception; Stevens-Coolidge Place](#), North Andover, MA; 6:30-8:30pm.

June 24-25 - [Wetland Workshop](#); Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Cummaquid, MA.

June 26 - **ELA EVENT** → [Native Plant Gardens for Beauty and Bounty](#); Amesbury, MA; 9:00am-12:30pm.

July 6-12 - [Plants of the Eastern Maine Coast: Field Botany, Ecology, and Natural History](#); Eagle Hill, ME.

July 12 - [Getting to Know Your Native Bees](#); Hillsborough, NJ; 12:00-3:00pm.

July 13-19 - [Climate Change: Seas Level Rise and Temperature Change](#); Eagle Hill, ME.

July 15 - **ELA EVENT** → ELA Annual Meeting; Framingham, MA; 12:30-1:00. Followed by a tour of Garden in the Woods.

July 15 - **ELA EVENT** → [Garden in the Woods: Enjoying the Present , Planning for the Future](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

July 20-26 - [Native Bees as Pollinators: Diversity, Ecology, Conservation, and Enhancing Pollinator Habitats](#); Eagle Hill, ME.

July 21 **ELA EVENT** → [Project Native: The Balance and Beauty of Natural Ecosystems](#); Housatonic, MA; 10:30am-12:30pm.

July 21-27 - [Tidal March Restoration: A Travelling Course from Rhode Island to Maine](#); sites from Providence, RI to Steuben, ME.

July 24 - [MNLA/MFGA Summer Conference and Trade Show](#); Deerfield, MA; 8:00am-5:00pm.

July 31 **ELA EVENT** → [Found Well Farm: Native Plant Nursery with Permaculture Roots](#); Pembroke, NH; 4:00-6:00pm.

August 12 **ELA EVENT** → [The Trouble with Earthworms](#); Framingham, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.

August 18 **ELA EVENT** → [The Edible Landscape at Wellesley College](#); Wellesley, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

August 20 **ELA EVENT** → [The Beautiful and Functional Raingarden at St. George's™ School](#); Middletown, RI; 6:00-8:00pm.

August 27 - [Pollinator Conservation Short Course](#); Kingston, RI; 9:00am-4:30pm.
 September 15-19 - [Field Study: Botanic & Aesthetic Composition of Native Plant Communities](#); Cornwall, NY.

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We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter. We welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net. Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor