



ecological
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association

biodiversity • conservation • lawn care
maintenance • meadows • rain gardens
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soil • trees • urban landscaping
water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

October

This month's articles highlight projects that restore landscapes to their natural beauty and function. These natural landscapes vary in scope from floodplain forest and Atlantic white cedar bog, to side-yard hedgerows and urban pollinator gardens, but they all offer refuge to native species, and given anticipated climate pressures, refuge is sorely needed. We also offer you an article that celebrates this season of falling leaves with an approach to leaving leaves in place and a review of the latest addition to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Guides: a native plants guide.

As you read these articles featuring natural landscapes, remember that this year **ELA's Season's End Summit** on Nov. 5th also shines a spotlight on Natural Landscapes success stories and tips. The Summit offers a full day of speakers and panel discussions. [Take a look at the schedule](#). I hope to see you and hear about your latest projects at the Summit. *MS*



Floodplain Forest Restoration along the Housatonic River

by Julie Richburg

In the middle of August, staff from The Trustees of Reservations, Project Native, and Helia Land Design, along with a crew of dedicated volunteers, planted more than 1,700 trees along the banks of the Housatonic River at Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield, MA. After several years of planning and preparation, it was finally time for the tree seedlings to get into the ground and begin their development into a major river floodplain forest—a natural community that is now rare throughout the region. [Read the article](#)



The Spicket River Greenway: Habitat Creation at Manchester Street Park

by Brad Buschur

The City of Lawrence, MA, has three very distinct rivers flowing through its boundaries. The wide Merrimack River flows through the heart of Lawrence's Mill districts. The Shawsheen River flows northward through a small river floodplain forest. The Spicket River has been engineered to flow through residential neighborhoods, and the process of constructing the Spicket River to facilitate residential and industrial development along its banks has created a narrow stream corridor. Over the years, the river has been straightened, contracted, and filled, factors that contribute to the heavy and extensive flooding that regularly occurs. [Read the article](#)



Re-Introducing Hedgerows to Residential Landscapes: Why We Still Need a Side Order of Messy

by Rebecca Lindenmeyr

Thanks to the pioneering work of E.O. Wilson, Doug Tallamy, Jonathan Foley, Marla Spivak and many others, the public has begun to accept the need for native plants in the landscape in order to help increase biodiversity and protect pollinators. It turns out that people really do like nature and are willing to change their habitats if the payoff is more birds, bees, butterflies, and wildlife in general. As ecological landscape designers and installers, we are lucky to be on the front lines and in positions that would allow us to help our clients restore habitats and reduce the spread of invasive species on over half the acreage in the lower 48 States, which is the total area currently in suburban/urban use. That's enormous positive potential. [Read the article](#)



Living with Leaves: Transform your practice so business is not "Picking Up"

by Tim Downey

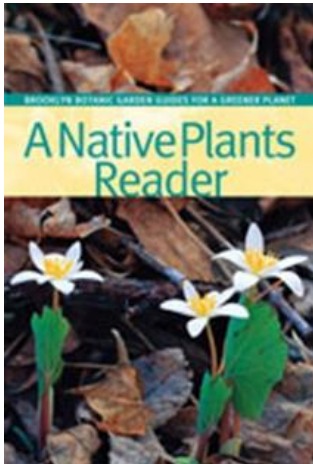
What? That might be your first thought upon reading the title. Don't we all want to grow our businesses? Why wouldn't I want my business to *pick up*? But when it comes to picking up yard "waste," it makes more sense to leave the leaves to return to the soil. Mulch mowing is an easy way to do this, but, like me, you may have encountered challenges to successfully mulch-mow while maintaining the look clients have come to expect. Following a lot of trial and error, I've come up with a winning approach. [Read the article](#)



A Master Plan for Garden in the Woods

by Mark Richardson

Garden in the Woods has inspired generations of professional horticulturists, landscape designers, and backyard gardeners alike to create gardens that look to nature for inspiration. Embracing an early 20th-century trend toward "wild" gardens, the Garden's founder, Will Curtis, sought to highlight the inherent glacial landscape of this property in Framingham, MA, and reflect the beauty of nature by designing and creating gardens that reflected natural habitats. [Read the article](#)



Book Review: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Guides for a Greener Planet - A Native Plants Reader

Reviewed by Bruce Patterson

A Native Plants Reader is an impressive collection of native plant essays by distinguished authors, educators, conservationists, and horticulturalists. Their personal stories working with native plants in the Northeast weave together a wide range of experiences and knowledge providing a fabric for us to consider native plants from new perspectives. Themes of enjoyment of native plants, threats from human activities and climate change, conservation, and restoration firmly tie the essays together. [Read the review](#)

Gleanings

Swallow-wort Bio-control

A team of University of Rhode Island entomologists recently oversaw the first release of a biological agent to fight invasive swallow-wort. Professor Richard Cassagrande and Research Associate Lisa Tewksbury of URI are working with partners at Canada Agriculture to release 500 larvae of the moth *Hypena opulenta* in patches of swallow-wort near Ottawa. [Read more.](#)



Kudos Go to ELA Board Member

Tobias Wolf, [Wolf Lighthall Inc](#), received recognition from the Society for College and University Planning ([SCUP](#)) for bioswales he designed as part of a collaborative project at Cornell University. The bioswales, located at the entrance to Cornell Plantations' botanical garden, received the 2013 Honor Award for Excellence in Landscape Architecture.



What's Your Favorite Eco-Product or Service

Do you have a product you can't live without when it comes to land care? Or do you highly recommend a particular service? Would other ecologically-minded practitioners be interested? The product or service that you find so useful just might interest attendees at ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace. Share your idea for a great exhibitor. Email ela.info@comcast.net; use Subject line **Great Exhibitor Idea**. Thanks for sharing.



Have you signed up for UMass Extension's informational messages? Receive breaking news about pests and problems directly in your inbox. You can sign up for the [Landscape, Nursery & Urban Forestry emails](#), [Introduced Pests Alerts](#), or [Turf Management information](#).

Events to Note

(listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)

- Oct 16- [Oyster Restoration in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary](#); Brooklyn, NY, 6:30-9:00pm.
- Oct 17 - [Edible Landscapes: Eat Your Yard](#); Andover, MA, 7:00pm.
- Oct 17 - [Improving Stream Crossings](#); Wakefield, MA, 8:30am.
- Oct 17 - [Therapeutic Landscape Collaborations: Successful Evidence-Based Design](#); Lynn, MA, 9:00am-12:30pm.
- Oct 19 - **ELA EVENT**→[The High Line - A Guided Walk of New York's Elevated Park](#); NYC, NY, 9:00-11:00am.
- Oct 19 - [Weed Patrol](#); Bowman's Hill, New Hope, PA; September 28, 9:30am-12:00noon.
- Oct 19 - [Knowing Native Plants: Trees of the Preserve](#); Bowman's Hill, New Hope, PA; 10:00am-1:00pm.
- Oct 23-25 - [PLANET 2013 Green Industry Conference](#); Louisville, KY.
- Oct 24 - [Mass Audubon: Building Resilient Communities](#), Bridgewater, MA, 4:30-6:30pm.
- Oct 25-26 - [Tree Steward Training 2013](#); Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA.
- Oct 25-27 - [Connecting for Change](#); New Bedford, MA.
- Oct 26 - Soak Up the Rain Demonstration Workshop; Florence, MA, 11:00am-3:00pm. Email Ann Capra at acapra@pvpc.org.
- Oct 26 - [Perimeter Walk](#); Bowman's Hill, New Hope, PA, 10:00am-noon.
- Oct 28 - [MA Land Conservation Conference](#), Deadline for Workshop Proposals
- Oct 29 - [Improving Stream Crossings](#); Marlborough, MA, 8:30am.
- Oct 29 - [Sandy One Year Later](#), UCS Forum & webcast; West Long Branch, NJ, 9:00am-4:30pm.
- Oct 30 - **ELA EVENT**→[Organic Lawns: An Overview of Sustainable Turfgrass Management, Webinar](#), 7:30-8:30pm.
- Nov 1-3 - [NEEEA Conference](#) - Achieving Environmental Literacy: Health, Environment, Curriculum; Newport, RI.
- Nov 5 - **ELA EVENT**→[Natural Landscapes: ELA Season's End Summit](#); Stoneham, MA, 8:30am-4:30pm.
- Nov 12 - **ELA EVENT**→ [Creating Healthy Soils Using Soil Amendments, Webinar](#), 7:30-8:30pm.
- Nov 13 - [Cutting Edge on Campus: Landscape Education Day](#); UMass Amherst, MA, 8:30am-3:30pm.
- Nov 15-16 - [Turning a New Leaf Conference](#), Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council; Shepherdstown, WV.

Nov 16 - [Invasive Plant Species: Pick Your Battles to Win](#), 2013 MACC Fall Conference; Worcester, MA, 7:30am-3:45pm.

Dec 4-7 - [ASCA Annual Conference](#); Uncasville, CT.

Dec 11 - **ELA EVENT** → [Sustainability Makes Cents](#), **Webinar**, 7:30-8:30pm.



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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