

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

December 2017



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

## From the Editor

ELA packed 2017 with education, starting in January with a carbon conference, continuing with the 23rd ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace, webinars, eco-tours, a first-time ELA Garden Tour, and wrapping up with a trio of one-day conferences in Massachusetts, Delaware, and New York. And 2018 promises more great events. We start right off on January 25 with an invitation for ELA members to attend Claudia West's presentation for the [Zube Lecture Series](#) at UMass Amherst - for free. West will present [Wild and Neat: Bridging the Gap between Great Planting Design and Ecology](#).

A few short weeks later, the [24th ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) takes place. You can find a preview of conference sessions on the ELA website. The ELA Newsletter wraps up the year with an article from Thomas Berger following up on his presentation at the November Summit, insights into parasitic plants for the garden from Ian Caton, and a look at dry river beds as a design element from Marie Chieppo. We also offer reviews of three books you might want to consider for your own reading pleasure or as gifts. Enjoy this issue of the newsletter and a peaceful end to the year. *MPS*



## Protecting and Providing Nesting for Native Bees and Wasps

by Thomas Berger

Feeding the birds in winter has become a common practice, as has providing nesting boxes to help them survive in manmade landscapes. We can offer native bees and other important insects the same support by growing their favorite foods in our gardens and by preserving and creating nesting sites. [Read the article.](#)



## Parasitic Plants for Gardens and Landscapes

by Ian Caton

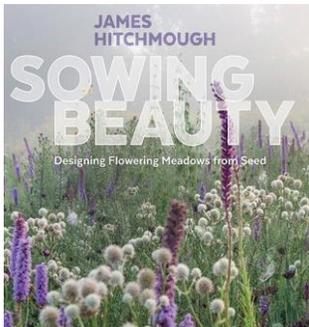
Parasitic plants for the home garden? Sometimes thought to be bad for the garden and impossible to cultivate, some parasitic plants can be propagated and welcomed into the landscape. [Read the article.](#)



## Dry River Beds: Possibly Your Property's Best Feature

by Marie Chieppo

For centuries, fountains, waterfalls, and reflecting pools have been focal points in gardens. In the 21st century, the extreme cycles of storm and drought experienced in many regions has us looking at more ecological ways to incorporate water in landscapes. [Read the article.](#)



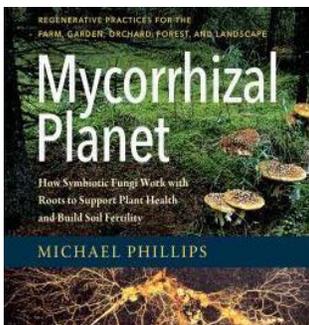
## Winter Reading: A Trio of Book Reviews

If you are looking for a last minute gift or a few more books to add to your own winter reading list, ELA offers a few suggestions.

***Sowing Beauty: Designing Flowering Meadows from Seed***  
by James Hitchmough; published by Timber Press, 2017

If you are looking for a book to both dream over and plan over this winter, this is the one. A guide to creating beautiful meadows in urban settings, this book offers much more.

[Read the review.](#)



## ***Mycorrhizal Planet: How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility***

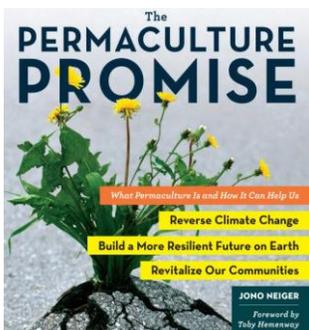
by Michael Phillips; published by Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017

In his casual, accessible style, Michael Phillips dives into soil biology. The natural world doesn't need people to create bounty or heal damage; we need to step aside and let soil biology lead the way. [Read the review.](#)

## ***The Permaculture Promise***

by Jono Neiger; published by Storey Publishing, 2016

Anyone who has fallen short trying to explain permaculture and why it's important can look for help in The Permaculture Promise. [Read the review.](#)



## ELA News

### Opportunity for ELA Members

ELA members are invited to attend, for free, Claudia West's presentation [Wild and Neat: Bridging the Gap between Great Planting Design and Ecology](#) on January 25 at UMass Amherst. Her talk is part the [2018 Erv Zube Lecture Series](#) through the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

### Success!

ELA wrapped up 2017 with two very successful conferences in Delaware and New York. Thank you to all the organizers, speakers, attendees, and sponsors! A special thanks to

Rebecca McMackin and Chris Roddick for hosting a Member's Reception in New York.

**Thank you to our Winterthur sponsors!**

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**Attention Company and Professional Members!**

If you hold a Company or Professional membership, take time to fill out your member profile. You must have a complete profile in order for your company to appear in the [Find an Eco-Pro](#) list that colleagues and potential clients can access. Simply select Member Login from the top menu and complete the login (or select Member Page if you are already logged in), and then click on the green EDIT YOUR PROFILE button at the top of the page. Fill the form with the appropriate information and click on SUBMIT. **ELA Website Recognized** Global Grid, an urban design website, lists ELA's website among the Top 20 Landscape Architecture Websites of 2017. [Find the listing.](#)



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**Gleanings**

**Funding Trees for Health**

A recent report produced by The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with Analysis Group and Trust for Public Land, finds that trees and other natural features in cities can help

regulate water quality and quantity, reduce harmful air pollutants, and boost local economies. By creating incentives for investment in urban nature, cities can help address health challenges more effectively, helping to save lives and potentially saving taxpayers millions of dollars. [Download full paper or executive summary here.](#)



### **Margaret Atwood Tackles Conservation Themes in Graphic Novels**

Best-selling author and environmental activist Margaret Atwood talks about Angel Catbird, her graphic novel series focused on the environmental impacts of "outdoor" cats, the plight of declining North American songbird populations, and other ecological concerns. She also discusses the environmental threads found in her novels in [this episode of Mongabay Newscast](#).



### **Reclaiming Appalachia: A Push to Bring Back Native Forests to Coal Country**

Previous efforts to restore former coal mine sites in Appalachia have left behind vast swaths of unproductive land. Now, a group of nonprofits and scientists are working to restore native trees to the region. [Read the article in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



### **Farming the Highway in Georgia**

The Georgia Department of Transportation has folded right-of-way farming trials into sustainable technologies being tested along the 18-mile Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway in western Georgia. Partners at the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design and the Land Institute have seeded a test plot of Kernza®, a perennial wheat with 10-foot roots that help enrich the soil, retain clean water, and sequester carbon. [Read more.](#)



### **Providence Neighborhood Highlights Stormwater Management**

Riverside Park in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence now features functioning exhibits that demonstrate creative water stormwater management. [Read the article in ecoRI News.](#)



### **Grants!**

#### **MA Recreational Trails Grants**

The Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program provides annual grant funding for the construction and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities across the state. The next round of applications is due February 1, 2018. [Find out more here.](#)



### **Requests for Proposals**

#### **International Low Impact Development Conference, August 12-15, Nashville, TN**

Session proposal topics and abstracts are requested in the following areas:

- Innovative LID/GI Research from Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Planning and related fields
- Urban Stream Interactions and considerations when applying LID approaches
- Case studies, perceptions, and innovations from industry
- Social Perspectives for LID - instigating uptake in the community
- International perspectives
- LID maintenance
- Municipal challenges and successes
- Stormwater in Tennessee

Click [here](#) for more information. Submission deadline: January 16, 2018.

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

December 16 **ELA Event**→[Meadows 1 2 3](#); Framingham, MA 10:00-4:00pm.

January 8-February 16 - [UMass Winter School for Turf Managers](#); Amherst, MA.

January 11&12 - [Landscape Design Symposium](#); Blue Bell, PA.  
 January 13 - [31st Annual NOFA/Mass Winter Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 7:30am-7:30pm.  
 January 17 **ELA Webinar**→[Transitioning to Ecological Landscape Practices - Toxin-free Landscapes](#); 4:00-5:00pm EST.  
 January 18&19 - [Landscape Design Symposium](#); New London, CT.  
 January 24 **ELA Webinar**→[Invasive Plants: What Are They? And What Can Be Done?](#); 7:00-8:00pm EST.  
 January 25 **ELA Member Event**→[Claudia West: Wild and Neat: Bridging the Gap between Great Planting Design and Ecology](#); 4:00pm.  
 January 31 - [National Stormwater Calculator for Managing Runoff Using Green Infrastructure: Addition of a Cost Module and a Mobile Web Application Version](#); webinar; 2:00-3:00pm EST.  
 February 1 **ELA Webinar**→[Landscape Maintenance Practices for Native Bees](#); 4:00-5:00pm EST.  
 February 1 - [Nurturing the Liberated Landscape](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.  
 February 6 **ELA Event**→[Designing Gardens for Small Spaces](#); Framingham, MA; 8:30am-12:00pm.  
 February 6 - [Landscape Safety Conference](#); Milford, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.  
 February 7 **ELA Webinar**→[Green Up for Clean Up: Planting to Remediate Contaminated Landscapes](#); 12:30-1:30pm EST.  
 February 8 - [Natural Burials Symposium](#); Plymouth, MA; 9:30am-3:00pm.  
 February 24 **ELA Webinar**→[Native Plants for Urban Design](#); 10:00-11:00am EST.  
 March 1 - [The Art and Science of Growing Native Plants from Seed: Why, When, and How](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.  
 March 3 - [Creating a Resilient Garden](#); Kingston, RI; 8:30am-4:00pm.  
 March 6 - [Community Tree Conference: Ecological Perspectives of the Urban Forest](#); Amherst, MA; 8:45am-3:30pm.  
 March 7&8 **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.



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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*

[Visit Our Website](#)

Ecological Landscape Alliance | 617-436-5838 | [ELA.info@comcast.net](mailto:ELA.info@comcast.net) | [WWW.Ecolandscaping.org](http://WWW.Ecolandscaping.org)

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