



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

August

Edibles in the landscape are a constant source of satisfaction as well as nourishment. Every time I pick a handful of raspberries, pinch some chive, or snip leaves of chard, I feel a connection to my yard literally at the gut level. Growing food for ourselves offers pleasure at some deep level, and the August Newsletter provides inspiration if you are looking to expand your edible repertoire.

Beyond growing food for ourselves, growing food for our communities expands the pleasure. The [Community Harvest Project](#) elevates food to the next level, by utilizing volunteers who plant, tend, and harvest fresh produce that feeds thousands of people each year. The Community Harvest Project Barn is the location for ELA's November 5th 2015 Season's End Summit. We'll all enjoy [Digging Into the Layered Landscape](#) while looking out upon acres of farmland used to nourish the greater community. *MS*



Chickens, or How to "Level Up" your Garden System

by Khrysti Smyth

Backyard chickens have gained popularity and acceptance, but can they be incorporated as part of the overall garden system? Learn how incorporating chickens into your garden ecosystem keeps more waste on site as the chickens turn waste into nutrients for the garden. As a bonus, your friendly nutrient producers will also provide you with delicious eggs.

[Read the article.](#)



Edible Garden Spotlight:

Dirt Therapy and a Client's First Garden in Cochection, NY

by Adrienne Picciano

How do you help the special clients who want to be hands-on and learn how to maintain their own vegetable gardens? The Dirt Diva has developed a Dirt Therapy service that lets her work side by side with the client through the season, offering instruction and advice. One client's project has grown with the family.

[Read the article.](#)



School Garden-to-Table Initiative Reaps more than Fresh Veggies

by Andrea Knowles

Students at Nashoba Valley Technical High School in Westford, MA, transformed the entrance to the school's restaurant, The Elegant Chef, from a compacted dusty lawn area to a productive beautiful Herb Garden. After a few after-school meetings and work days, students created a source of fresh herbs and vegetables for the school's Culinary Shop.

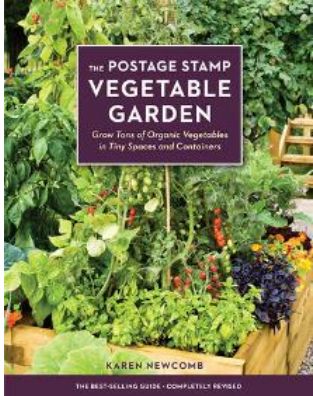
[Read the article.](#)



The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge: Will You Accept?

by Matthew Shepherd

In June, the National Pollinator Garden Network (NPGN), a newly created partnership of organizations involved with pollinator conservation, wildlife gardening, and gardens, launched the Million Pollinator Challenge: Can the nation establish a network of one million pollinator gardens within two years? Not without your help. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review: The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden

Written by Karen Newcomb; Published by Ten Speed Press

Reviewed by Maureen Sundberg

Anyone planning a vegetable garden for the first time can find it a daunting process. Seedlings or seeds? Which varieties? How much of any one crop? Soil prep? What about amendments? When to plant? And eventually, what's bothering the kale/squash/tomatoes? The Postage Stamp Vegetable Garden provides answers to all these questions as well as insights for the seasoned gardener. [Read the review.](#)

ELA News

Webinar Series Continues in September

Experts from across the US will cover a new range of topics in "[Focus on Sustainability](#)" Season 3. This collaborative webinar series offered by ELA, the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, the Midwest Ecological Landscape Alliance, and EcoLandscaping California. Webinars are free to members.

The season begins with [Designing Successful Rain Gardens for Civic Sites](#) on September 24th presented by Landscape Architect and ELA Board Member Amanda Sloan and continues on October 13th with a presentation by Trevor Smith, Landscape Designer and ELA Board President, on constructing [Natural Swimming Ponds](#).

Sixth Season's End Summit Features Julie Moir Messervy

ELA prepares for its 6th [Season's End Summit](#) scheduled for November 5 at the Community Harvest Project Barn in North Grafton, MA. We will find ourselves [Digging Into the Layered Landscape](#) as we look back at the season. The Summit offers an opportunity for practitioners to take a breath and network with their peers as the season winds down. As always, this event offers breakfast snack options and a locally sourced lunch.

New Pennsylvania Intensive Workshop Brings Noël Kingsbury to the US

Registration has begun for ELA's intensive workshop [Ecological Synergies: Understanding Performance-Based, Resilient Landscapes](#). Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA will provide the setting for this daylong event on November 20, 2015 from 9:00am until 5:00pm. Breakfast and lunch included. Early registration discounts available.

Note Our Change of Address

Need to send mail to ELA? Note our new address:

Ecological Landscape Alliance
PO Box 3
Sandown, NH 03873

Gleanings

New Research on Exotic/Native Responses to Environmental Change

A global grassland experiment conducted by University of Minnesota researchers offers new insight into the behavior of exotic and native plant species. The study examines the response of select plant species to two drivers of invasion: mineral nutrient supplies and vertebrate herbivory. [Read the U of M article.](#)



Green Business Certification Inc. Launch SITES

Earlier this summer, Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) [announced the acquisition and national launch of SITES v2 Rating System](#). Modeled after the LEED certification system for architecture, SITES offers a site-specific rating system for developing sustainable landscapes. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and US Green Building Council's Central Texas-Balcones Chapter plan to celebrate the new collaboration and launch at The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on August 24 at 4:00pm. [Click to register for the soiree.](#)



New Fact Sheets on Potting Mixes

UMass Amherst Extension has released a Fact Sheet that covers the components of bagged potting mixes and garden soils. In addition to specifying the advantages of a given component, the sheet offers tips for best use. [Read the Fact Sheet.](#)



Hudson Yards Project Builds Gardens over Train Yard

A project in Manhattan will result in 4.5 acres of garden scheduled for completion late in 2018. Known as Public Square, the project is being constructed over a working rail yard and isolates planting beds from extreme heat generated by the active facility and collects and stores water to support plantings. Read the [NY Times article](#) or the [Hudson Yards Press Release](#).



New England Grassroots Environmental Fund Grants

[NEGEF grants](#) are designed for groups that:

- are doing community-based environmental work in CT, ME, MA, NH, RI or VT
- are volunteer-driven or have up to 2 full-time paid staff (or equivalents)
- have an annual operating budget up to \$100,000.

Seed Grants: Quick project-focused grants dedicated to helping volunteer groups launch and build their *newly-evolving project(s)*.

Deadline: Apply anytime (expect a decision in 4 weeks)

Grant range: \$250 - \$1,000

Grow Grants: Competitive group development grants dedicated to helping *established groups* increase capacity, collaborate, and leverage impact.

Deadlines: March 15 & September 15 (expect decisions early June & December)

Grant range: \$1,000 - \$3,500

(Reposted from [MassLand.org](#))



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

August 20 - [Grassy Weed Identification Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.

August 20 - [Compost Workshop](#); Hockessin, DE; 8:30am-5:00pm.

August 22 - [Migratory Dragonfly Short Course](#); Alexandria, VA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

August 22 - [New Hampshire Permaculture Day](#); Chichester, NH; 8:00am-5:00pm.

August 22 - [Fern Identification and Ecology for Conservationists](#); Harvard, MA; 10:00am-3:00pm.

August 23 - [Introduction to Seed-Saving](#); Whately, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.

September 10 - [Selected Topics for Tree Care Professionals](#); Taunton, MA; 9:30am-12:30pm.

September 10 - [Landscape Pests and Problems Walkabout](#); Dartmouth, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.

September 10,12,17,19&24 - [Native New England Shrubs](#); Framingham, MA; hours vary.

September 15 - [Enhancing Diversity to Support Pollinators: Focus on Bees](#); Jamestown, NC; 7:00pm.

September 17 - [Massachusetts Soil Conference: Know the Soil Know the Land](#); Rutland, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

September 19 - [Growing Awareness: Planting Biodiverse + Resilient Landscapes](#); Providence, RI; 9:00am-5:00pm.

September 23 **ELA Event**→[NYC School Playground Combines Creative Play and Effective Green Infrastructure](#); Brooklyn, NY; 11:00am-1:00pm.

September 23 - [Yardbirds' Backyard Chickens 101](#); Somerville, MA; 6:30-8pm.

September 24 **ELA Event**→[Designing Successful Rain Gardens for Civic Sites](#) - Webinar; 1:00-2:00pm EDT.

September 25 & October 9 - [Hands-On Ecological Restoration](#); Hillsborough Township, NJ. 9:30am-12:30pm.

September 26 **ELA Event**→[Recreational Lake Shore Restoration](#): Lake Massapoag, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

September 26 - [Creating a Hugelkultur Bed](#); Kingston, RI; 11:00am.

September 27 - [Native Plants in Urban Design](#); Worcester, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

October 1 **ELA Event**→[Sustainable Site Design Basics](#); Framingham, MA; 9:30am-4:30pm.

October 3 **ELA Event**→[Soil Workshop - Ground Rules: Measuring Soil Health and Managing Site Challenges in the Urban Landscape](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

October 6 - [Composting & Compost Tea Workshop](#); Cambridge, MA; 8:00am-5:00pm.

October 7 **ELA Event**→[Restoring an Urban River: The Acushnet Sawmill Ecological Restoration](#); New Bedford, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

October 13 **ELA Event**→[Natural Swimming Ponds: Beauty, Recreation, and Habitat with No Chemicals](#) - Webinar; 5:00-6:00pm EDT.

October 14 **ELA Event**→[Beaver: Building Habitat - Improving Eco-Systems](#); Princeton, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

October 17 - [Wetlands Replication and Restoration: Let's Get It Right!](#) Devens, MA; 8:30am-4:00pm.

October 19 **ELA Event**→[Guiding the Rain: Aesthetic Form - Ecological Function](#); Leominster, MA; 9:00am-12:00pm.

October 21-23 - [The National Association of Landscape Professionals - Landscapes 2015](#); Louisville, KY.

November 4 - [Bringing Nature Home with Doug Tallamy](#); Boylston, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

November 5 **ELA Event**→[Season's End Summit: Digging Into the Layered Landscape](#); North Grafton, MA; 8:00am-4:30pm.

November 20 **ELA Event**→[Ecological Synergies: Understanding Performance-Based, Resilient Landscapes](#); Longwood Gardens, PA; 9:00am-5:00pm.



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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. *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*