

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

August 2017



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

From the Editor

A tendril of Oriental bittersweet curling out from New England woodland, Russian thistle tumbleweeds tumbling across a Western landscape, Asian carp eating their way up the Mississippi, kudzu smothering trees in the southeast. Every year the list of invasive species keeps growing. And the cost? In the U.S., control efforts and crop losses exceed \$120 billion dollars every year.

Determining whether a plant is invasive in your area isn't always easy. You can try national resources like [National Invasive Species Information Center](#) or regional resources like [PlantRight](#) in California or [IPANE](#) in New England. You can also look for local lists through towns and cities. Groton, MA has developed [brochures detailing invasive species](#) that threaten local landscapes - a good tool for educating residents about immediate concerns.

Most of us are responsible citizens who want to "do the right thing" when it comes to invasive species, but it can be difficult figuring out what that is. We want to remove invasives without using toxic chemicals; we want to support nurseries that do not distribute invasive plants. This issue of the newsletter features landscape professionals with firsthand experience controlling invaders. We hope you'll find inspiration in their efforts and encouragement to continue the hard work of reining in invasives. *MS*



Three Invasive Plant Species to Really Watch Out For

by Mike Bald

Following up on his Eco-tour of invasive plant control at King Arthur Flour's headquarters in Vermont, Mike details the species that he finds of greatest concern. His control efforts rely on active management, which necessitates safe access to the land. [Read the article.](#)



Is There Hope for Growing Lilies in New England Again?

by Lisa Tewksbury

In the early 1990s New England acquired a new pest from Europe: the lily leaf beetle. Now found in a dozen states, the lily leaf beetle makes growing lilies to their full potential almost impossible. After extensive testing, the release of three parasitoids in New England is having an effect on lily leaf beetles populations. [Read the article.](#)



Exotic Invasive Plant Control Hand Tools for Homeowners

by Bruce Wenning

We know that the right tool almost always makes the job easier. Wondering which are the best tools to use for your invasive removal project? Haven't found the right ones yet? This extensive overview of hand tools for exotic invasive removal will provide you with valuable insights before you start your next project. [Read the article.](#)



Developing Sterile Invasives (Why Bother?)

by Ellen Sousa

Efforts to develop sterile varieties of exotic invasive plants continue in spite of notable failures to contain presumably sterile cultivars. Is it worth the energy and money required to develop plants that do not belong in the local ecosystem? [Read the article.](#)



How Do Native Nurseries Handle Invasive Plants?

Contributors:

Pat Bigelow, Steve Castorani, and Peter van Berkum

ELA recently posed a few questions to regional nurseries to find out how they are learning about and controlling distribution of known invasive plants and those plants that might become invasive. [Read their responses.](#)

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. And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of [ELA Professionals](#).



Controlling Invasive Bamboo

Contributor: Mike Bald

I live in north central Arkansas and have an issue with an invasive plant. There is a large stand of running bamboo along my back fence line that is expanding at the rate of 5-10 feet per year. It was on my neighbor's land and he refused to take it out. I recently bought a few acres from this neighbor and now own the land with the bamboo. It is several decades old and very tall. I have already mechanically removed a large stand of plants the same size on my side of the fence line by digging out almost everything and then making two more passes over the last two years. It's now eradicated.

What is the best time of year to take out this other stand, in terms of soil and wildlife disturbance? I see lots of birds flying in and around the bamboo, and the mechanical removal does disturb the soil a lot. I was planning to do this work in early February when the bamboo may be dormant, but would it be better to wait until late fall/November? [Read the Pro's Answer.](#)

ELA News

Ecological Landscape Alliance
Strategic Plan 2017-2022



ELA Releases New Strategic Plan

Since its founding in 1992, the Ecological Landscape Alliance has been a leader in promoting sustainable approaches to landscape design, construction, and management. ELA's commitment to innovate ideas and evidence-based practices has made the organization both a trusted resource and a vibrant community of landscape professionals and devoted gardeners. Twenty-five years after its founding, ELA continues to grow with programs reaching participants in thirty-seven states and nine countries outside the U.S. Over the last decade, ELA has collaborated with over sixty-five allied organizations and expanded the range of educational offerings. The 2017-2022 Strategic Plan outlines the goals and objectives that will guide ELA's work into the future.

[Click to view the Strategic Plan.](#)

Autumn Events

ELA is rolling out an array of engaging events for the fall, and it's not too early to reserve your seat. Eco-tours continue into the fall and the 2017-18 webinar series [A Focus on Sustainability](#) starts back up in early September.

ELA also is offering three daylong regional events in November:

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 2nd Annual NYC Ecological Plant Conference, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY. Details coming soon.

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Gleanings

Plight of the Pollinators

Anne Raver, Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, and Rick Enser, a biodiversity specialist formerly with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, discuss the implications of our manicured and chemically treated lawns and gardens on pollinators and biodiversity in general with ecoRI co-hosts Frank Carini and Nick Boke. How can we all contribute to saving pollinators? [Listen to the ecoTalk podcast.](#)



Weed Out Invasive Black Swallow Wort

After focusing his engineering background on the desertification expected to intensify with global climate change, Jurriaan Ruys invented a low-tech, solution to planting trees in dry, barren landscapes. [Read the New Yorker article.](#) Learn more about Ruys at www.landlifecompany.com/.



Fact Vs Fiction: The Truth about the Stormwater Structures in Your Yard

Are your rain barrels breeding mosquitoes? Are rain gardens hard to maintain? Do stormwater structures detract from your yard? Get the scoop on stormwater misconceptions. [Read more.](#)



The Nitrogen Problem: Why Global Warming Is Making It Worse

New research shows that increases in rainfall and extreme weather resulting from climate change will increase the amount of nitrogen polluting waterways. These findings underscore the urgency of reducing the use of nitrogen fertilizers. [Read the article in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



Encourage Shops to Keep Air Conditioning Indoors

In the heat of summer, retail stores often open their doors to the outside while the air conditioner is blasting cold air. Not only is this a waste of energy, but the practice contributes to summer brownouts and blackouts while contributing significantly to air pollution. You might join the national campaign to curb this practice. [Find out more.](#)



Multi-use Project Showcases Onsite Wastewater and Stormwater Treatment

A downtown Portland, OR project transforms an asphalt parking lot into a mixed-use project that features onsite a wastewater treatment system. [Read the story in Green Builder Media.](#)



Water Absorbing Yards

Images from MMSD in Milwaukee, WI showcase yards designed to manage stormwater. [View the website.](#)



Yes, There Are More Storms. Here's Why

It doesn't just feel like more frequent and more intense rain storms in New England this year. There's data to back up the changes to precipitation throughout the U.S. [Read the MassAudubon post.](#)



Artificial Wetland Slows Stormwater Pollution

Runoff from 330 acres of residential neighborhood in Waynesboro, VA is being diverted to a 10-acre constructed wetland at the center of the city. [Read the article in Bay Journal.](#)



MA Natural Heritage Atlas

The 14th edition of the Natural Heritage Atlas was released on August 1. [View or download here.](#)



Grants!

MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is seeking proposals from groups of Massachusetts cities/towns or from Regional Planning Commissions on behalf of groups of Massachusetts cities/towns, for innovative projects that will assist multiple communities in meeting the requirements of either the 2003 Small MS4 General Permit or the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit.

The purpose of this \$300,000 grant opportunity is to enable groups of Massachusetts municipalities to expand their efforts to meet MS4 requirements and reduce stormwater pollution through coordinated partnerships that emphasize resource sharing. Grant proposals are due September 1, 2017.

Complete details about this MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program (including information about the Bidders Conference set for Wednesday August 16 at 10 AM at MassDEP's Worcester Office) are available [here.](#)



Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation offers grants in communities where Lowe's operates stores and distribution centers. The Foundation's Community Partners grant

program supports nonprofit organizations and municipalities undertaking high-need projects, such as building renovations and upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades, and safety improvements. Applications for the fall funding cycle will be accepted from July 3 to August 25, 2017. [Find out more.](#)



**Call for Presenters & Exhibitors
MA Green Careers Conference**

Present or exhibit at the 2017 [MA Green Careers Conference](#) on October 5-6. Send your 200-word proposal for a presentation to jenboudrie@gmail.com. To exhibit, email for details: jenboundrie@gmail.com.



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

August 19 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Lush, Lovely, and Lawn-Free Gardens](#); Brookline, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

August 23 & 26 - [Natural Community Survey Techniques](#); Framingham, MA.

August 27-September 1 - [7th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#); Foz do Iguassu, Brazil.

August 28-31 - [Adobe InDesign for Design Professionals: An Intensive Introduction](#); Easthampton, MA; 9:30am-5:00pm.

August 29 - [Why Are Some Plants Rare?](#) Webinar; 6:30-7:30pm EDT.

August 30, September 6 & 13 **ELA Event**→[Native Woody Plant Materials](#); Framingham, MA.

September 5, 12, 19 & 26 - [Vermont Tree Stewards Course](#); Waterbury, VT.

September 8 - [Northeast Region Perennial Plant Association Symposium](#); Wellesley, MA; 9:00am-4:30pm.

September 9 - [Getting to Know Your Neighbors: A Field Walk through Native Plant Communities in Waltham](#); Waltham, MA; 10:00am-12:15pm.

September 12 **ELA Webinar**→[Kill Your Lawn and Opt for More Biodiversity](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

September 13 **ELA Eco-tour**→[North Creek Nurseries Test and Trial Gardens](#); Landenberg, PA; 10:00am-12:30pm.

September 13 - [MEES Listening Session Central Region](#); Uxbridge, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.

September 14 - [MLP Business Seminar & Workshops](#); Boylston, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.

September 14-October 12 - [Landscaping and Planting Design with Warren Leach](#); Wellesley, MA.

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

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

September 21 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating Meadow and Coastal Habitats at Connecticut College Arboetum](#); 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 Landscapes: Foresters for the Birds Workshop](#); 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; 1:00pm.

October 5 - [Massachusetts Green Careers Conference](#); Westborough, MA.

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

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 24 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Two Narrow River Restorations](#); Narragansett, RI; 10:30am-12:30pm.
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**→[Whats Cookin' in the Soil Kitchen? Understanding Engineered Soils](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.
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.



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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

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