



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

Hardscape refers generally to all those non-living elements of the built environment, but we rarely hear about "ecological" hardscapes. What does that mean? What does it look like? What are the lighting, furniture, and material options? [Building the Ecological Landscape: Materials, Technology, and Design](#), ELA's January Symposium will explore ecological approaches to designing and constructing hardscapes and promises to offer insights into a variety of unique projects.



In this issue of the newsletter, Symposium sponsor, [Pavers by Ideal](#), gives an introduction on paver use in achieving ecological goals. We also have articles from speakers who will be presenting at the [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#), February 25-26: Kelly Gill (The Xerces Society) looks at native pollinators, Peter van Berkum (Van Berkum's Nursery) discusses rugged native plants, and CJ Lammers (Master Environmental Planner) lends insight into successful tree preservation during construction. Enjoy these previews, and then join ELA at our two information-packed events. *MS*



Everyone Can Play a Role in Pollinator Conservation

by Kelly Gill

Pollinators - especially bees - are an indispensable part of a healthy environment and a secure food supply. Nearly 85 percent of the world's flowering plants depend on pollinators to reproduce. This includes more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The fruits, seeds, and livestock feed produced by pollinators provides over 30 percent of the food that we consume - an estimated annual value of \$20 billion in the U.S. alone. Despite their recognized importance, bees and other pollinators are in decline across the country putting the ecological service of pollination at risk. [Read the article.](#)



Preserving Trees Through Collaboration

by CJ Lammers

Preserving large trees in a new or renovated landscape is a complex task that requires the collaboration of many different professionals to be successful. Not only does the landscape designer need to understand the trees and their requirements for nutrients, light and air, but so do the architect and/or engineer designing the project. Other contractors working on the site, such as electricians or hardscape contractors, also need to understand how trees function in order for the entire project to be successful. [Read the article.](#)



How Will Climate Change Affect our Plant Palette?

by Peter van Berkum

As the climate warms up, we are faced with some daunting facts. Our frost free season is getting longer. Our winters are warmer, at least sporadically. Violent weather events are becoming more frequent. Summers are getting wetter, but strange weather patterns are bringing prolonged dry spells. The USDA hardiness map adjustments show that things are warming up. How will weather extremes and changing zones influence our plant selections? [Read the article.](#)



The Structure of Green Infrastructure

by David Smith

Today, many cities are using green infrastructure programs to renovate existing urban infrastructure that supports blocks or entire neighborhoods. The best projects achieve multiple goals. These can be reached with help from permeable interlocking concrete pavement (PICP). Learn more about the benefits that accrue using PICP. [Read the article.](#)

This introduction to PICP is provided by Larry Nicolai of [Ideal Concrete Block Co.](#), a MA based manufacturer of interlocking and permeable concrete pavers, landscape retaining wall systems, and related garden products. Pavers by Ideal is a sponsor of [Building the Ecological Landscape](#), ELA's January Symposium.

This article first appeared in the Fall 2013 issue of Interlock Design, the official publication of Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI), and is reprinted with permission.



Building the Ecological Landscape: Materials, Technology, and Design

ELA Symposium Sponsor

Gleanings

SITES Snapshot Webinars

Five webinars provide an introduction to the SITES v2 Rating System and offer insights into the connections between SITES v2 and LEED v4. Webinars are available [here](#).

An in-depth [nine-part webinar series](#) about SITES v2 recorded in 2014 is also available for a fee.



ELA Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps

The New England Wild Flower Society seeks volunteers for its Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps (PCV). Participants collect data on rare plant populations throughout New England and assist with invasive and habitat management projects. Volunteers are trained to document the current status of rare plant populations and identify potential threats to them. Volunteers benefit from field trips, classes, and opportunities to interact with professional botanists to learn more about challenging species and the ecology of various habitats. [Click](#) for more information or to apply. John Burns, PCV Administrative Coordinator, may be reached at jburns@newenglandWILD.org or (508) 877-7630, ext. 3204.



Monarch Butterfly Webinars

Dr. Karen Oberhauser, Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota, kicked off a Monarch Butterfly Conservation Webinar Series on December 17, 2014. The series' hour-long first webinar is available for viewing at <http://nctc.fws.gov/topic/online-training/webinars/monarch-conservation.html>.



Conway School Opens Satellite Campus

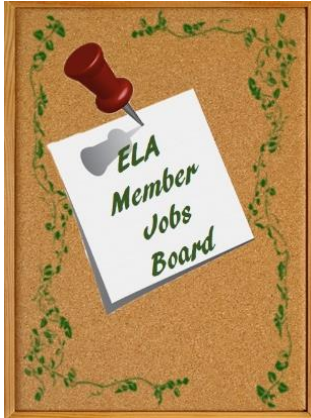
Beginning in the fall of 2015, students applying to the Conway School will enroll at either the main campus in Conway, MA or a new facility in Easthampton, MA. More information is available on the [Conway School website](#).



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

January 15-18 - [California Native Plant Society Annual Conference](#); San Jose, CA.
January 15-16 - [Ecological Landscape Symposium - Evolving Strategies for Evolving Landscapes: Beyond the Garden Bed](#); Connecticut College, New London, CT.
January 21 **ELA Event**→[Building the Ecological Landscape: Materials, Technology, and Design](#); Stoneham, MA; 8:00am-5:00pm.
January 29 **ELA Webinar**→[Xeriscape: Whole System Planning and Practice](#); 1:00-2:00pm EST.
February 4-6 - [New England Grows](#); Boston, MA.
February 4 - [Humans and Wildlife: The New Imbalance](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
February 4 - [Wetland Shrubs in Winter](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.
February 4, 11, 18, & 25 - [Community Training in Ecological Design](#); various NH locations.
February 5 - [North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange Field Trip](#); Mashpee and Buzzards Bay, MA.
February 6 - [Southeastern MA Regional Conservation Forum](#); Mashpee and Buzzards Bay, MA.
February 11 **ELA Webinar**→[Edible Native Plants for Your Landscape](#); 7:30-8:30pm EST.
February 12 - [Growth, Effectiveness, Management/Horticultural Business Seminars Level 2](#); Charlestown, RI; 8:00am-5:00pm.
February 25-26 **ELA Event**→[ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#); Springfield, MA.
February 28 - [Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-5:15pm.
March 4 - [Wild Orchids of New England](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
March 6-7 - [Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); Ithaca, NY.
March 5 - [Perennial Plant Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-4:30pm.
March 7 - [MAC 14th Annual Winter Conference](#); Palmer, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.
March 7 - [Critters, Containers & Native Plants](#); Kingston, RI; 9:00am-3:00pm.
March 9 **ELA Webinar**→[Water Conservation: Landscape Design Strategies](#); 5:30-6:30pm EST.
March 18 **ELA Event**→[The Orchard Ecosystem](#); Wellesley, MA; 12:30-3:30pm.

March 25 **ELA Webinar**→[Low-Impact Construction for Living Landscapes](#); 5:30-6:30pm EST.
March 26 - [Pollinator Health for Agriculture and Landscapes](#); UMass Amherst, MA. Save the date.
April 1 - [Native Meadows: Let's Get Real](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.;
April 16 - [Pursuit of Sustainable Living](#); early registration discounts for exhibitors.
April 23 **ELA Event**→[ELA Member Reception](#); SEMPBA Community Center, Plymouth, MA; 5:30-7:30pm.
May 6 - [Land Stewardship for Pollinator Conservation](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.



The Marion Institute seeks a full-time Executive Director. Deadline for application is February 2, 2015. Find the complete job description and employment details on the [Marion Institute website](#).

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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*