



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

## January 2017

Rising levels of atmospheric carbon have all of us wondering about ways to reduce our carbon footprints. As professionals working in the landscape, we think about steps we can take to limit our use of carbon producing equipment, but how do our planting choices and soil practices affect carbon? Eric Toensmeier joins a long list of experts who will speak to this topic at [Landscape Heroes](#) an all-day carbon conference at UMass Amherst on January 31. Before then get a preview of the topic with our review of his new book, *The Carbon Farming Solution*. Also on the topic of carbon, our Eco-Pros answer a question about the best plants for sequestering carbon.

Looking ahead to March and the [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#), we have two articles from Conference speakers. David Anderson will be providing a hands-on session on March 9th and he gives newsletter readers a concise guide to pruning practices. We also have an excerpt from *Artful Rainwater Design*, the basis for presentations both days of the conference. Authors Stuart Echols and Eliza Pennypacker provide one of their case studies in this issue of the newsletter and they will present conference sessions on March 8th and 9th.

Enjoy this month's sampling of topics covered in upcoming ELA's winter events. We hope you'll register and join us to learn more. *MS*



### **Artful Rainwater Design: A Case Study**

by Stuart Echols and Eliza Pennypacker

Constructed on the Arizona State University campus outside Phoenix, AZ this creative design celebrates the unique relationship of a desert community to water. Design elements mimic the flow of water in the natural environment and each of four courtyards presents a different desert water theme. [Read the article.](#)

This excerpt is from *Artful Rainwater Design* by Echols and Pennypacker. The authors will present sessions on stormwater design that enhances aesthetics and discuss case studies at the [ELA Conference](#) on March 8 & 9.

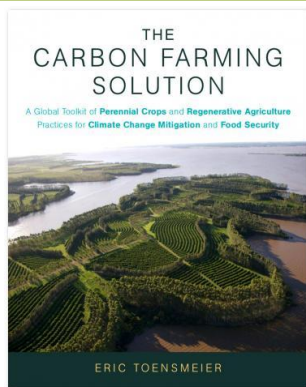


### **A Pruning Guide**

by David Anderson

Pruning is an important task landscapers and horticulturalists. Although there are as many different pruning styles as there are people, how do you know the right way to approach pruning tasks? [Read the article.](#)

Anderson will lead a hands-on pruning demonstration and discussion on March 9 at the [ELA Conference](#).



### **Book Review: *The Carbon Farming Solution***

Written by Eric Toensmeier

Reviewed by M.L. Altobelli

Eric Toensmeier will inspire land care practitioners to become part of the climate solution with practical strategies - whether you are a backyard gardener, farmer, landscape designer, or landscape architect. [Read the review.](#)

You can join the discussion with Toensmeier at [Landscape Heroes: Carbon, Water, and Biodiversity](#) on January 31 at UMass Amherst.

### **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](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net). And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of [ELA Professionals](#).



### **The Carbon Conscious Landscape**

Contributors: M.L. Altobelli, Penny Lewis

I am on a landscaping committee for a community that sits upon approximately 20 acres. We want to (probably gradually) turn our landscape into one with native plants that support our wildlife, but we are also interested in planting as many carbon capturing plants as possible. Other than trees, do some landscaping plants capture more carbon than others? And if so, can you direct me to a website or other resource? I live in northern Virginia. [Read the Pros' Answers.](#)

### **ELA News**

#### **Winter Events**

[Landscape Heroes: Carbon, Water, and Biodiversity](#), January 31, Amherst, MA

Where do soil and climate intersect, and what are the implications for our land care practices? This wide-ranging program brings ELA together with Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA Mass), and Organic Land Care of NOFA/CT for a full-day of presentations. Organic lunch included with registration.

[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#), March 8 & 9 at the UMass Amherst Campus Center

The 23rd Annual ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace links ecological principles, practitioners, products, and providers during two days of intense education. This year's sessions cover topics ranging from the aesthetics of stormwater design to promoting toxin-free landscapes. A series of Idea Exchange panels offer an opportunity for you to add your voice to the discussion. New this year: mini sessions with practical tips from Eco-Marketplace exhibitors.

Early Bird Rates until February 26.

#### **Opportunities for Exhibiting, Sponsoring, and Advertising!**

Join the growing list of exhibitors in this year's Eco-Marketplace at the ELA Conference. Or, get your company's name in front of the hundreds of attendees by becoming a sponsor - several levels available. Prefer to have your information in print? Advertise in the conference program!

[Amherst Nurseries\\*](#) [Conway School+](#) [Earth & Turf Products, LLC\\*](#) [Filtrex\\*](#)  
[Green Earth Ag & Turf\\*](#) [North Creek Nurseries](#) [Organic Plant Magic\\*](#) [Perfect Earth Project](#)  
[Planter's Choice, LLC\\*+](#) [Read Custom Soils](#)

\*Presents practical tips on March 8.  
+Sponsor

To exhibit or sponsor: <http://www.ecolandscaping.org/eco-marketplace-exhibitors/>  
To advertise: [MichaelOpton@gmail.com](mailto:MichaelOpton@gmail.com)



### Put on a Smile When You Shop Online!

If you are shopping online, shop through [AmazonSmile](#) and a portion of every eligible purchase will support ELA education. It's easy. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), enter your account as usual, specify Ecological Landscape Alliance as your preferred charity, and start shopping. It will put a smile on your face.



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### Gleanings

#### Noel Kingsbury Seeks Design Examples

As a garden and landscape journalist I'm always on the look-out for good examples of contemporary design practice to write about, for magazines like Garden Design and Gardens Illustrated. I actually live in England but make frequent visits to the US and write for US as well as British magazines, and co-ordinate with leading photographers who may be regionally-based or globe-trotters. So, if you have got a project which you think is worth my seeing, send me some pictures. What particularly interests me are contemporary or other innovative design using natives or naturalistic planting using native and non-native combinations, or where visually effective planting is designed to deliver environmental services such as stormwater management. Domestic garden or smaller urban landscape projects are the easiest for me to 'sell'. Please contact me on: [noelk57@gmail.com](mailto:noelk57@gmail.com).



#### Free Seeds from URI

University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension is accepting orders within the New England region for free seeds. Individuals, schools, and organizations may apply. Deadline: February 10, 2017. [Find out more.](#)



#### Mass Audubon Offers LID & GI Fact Sheets

Mass Audubon recently released a set of five fact sheets addressing low impact development, green infrastructure, and sustainable design. [Click here](#) to link to these and other resources.



#### Forest Edges May Hold More Carbon

A recent study out of Boston University evaluates forest carbon dynamics in New England's temperate broadleaf forest. The increased growth along the forest edge may result in more carbon sequestration than previously estimated. [Read the article.](#)



#### Second Annual Conway School pre-ELA Conference Alum Gathering

**When:** Tuesday, March 7th, 7:00-9:00 pm

**Where:** High Horse Brewery and Bistro, 24 N. Pleasant St, Amherst

**Co-hosts:** Theresa Sprague ('08), President, ELA and Nancy Braxton, Conway School Alum Liaison.

Building on the success of last year's pre-ELA-conference Conway gathering, we will meet again this year on the evening before the 2017 ELA Conference (March 8-9th at UMass/Amherst). We anticipate another great evening!

A link to the RSVP will be sent to all alums by end of January - or feel free to RSVP to [braxton@cslid.edu](mailto:braxton@cslid.edu). In addition, ELA has generously renewed a special offer to Conway alums who attend both the March 7th alum gathering and the ELA conference: a 50% discounted professional membership of \$50 for new members, entitling you to register for the conference at the discounted membership rate. To accept this offer, go to the ELA website and select professional level membership from this link: <http://www.ecolandscaping.org/membership/>; then use this coupon code at checkout to deduct \$50 from the price of membership: **conway-discount-50**. We hope to see you on March 7th, 8th, and 9th!



#### **Turf Research at UMass Amherst**

A recent article in *Sports Turf* highlights a few of the turf research projects being conducted by UMass researchers. Projects aim to enhance the functional use of turf grasses while reducing the environmental impact of turf management practices. [Read the article.](#)



#### **Grants!**

**Community Forestry:** TD Green Streets supports innovative practices in community forestry with grants to municipalities in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Now open for 2017 program applications.

**Recreational Trails:** MA Department of Conservation and Recreation will award two to three grants focused on statewide trail education initiatives. To learn more and apply, [click here](#). Deadline February 1, 2017.



**NYBG Winter Lecture Series: *Great Gardens and Their Legacies* Starts this Month** Join The New York Botanical Garden for the 17th Annual Winter Lecture Series: *Great Gardens and Their Legacies* as three innovative gardeners, R. William Thomas, Cassian Schmidt, and Aaron Bertelsen share the challenges of maintaining - and expanding - the iconic gardens of Chanticleer, Hermannshof, and Great Dixter. Plantsmen as well as stewards, they must protect past, present, and future, while balancing art, nature, technology, and the expectations of an ever-growing public. The series takes place on three Thursdays: January 26, February 23, March 30, from 10-11:30 a.m. in Ross Hall. Learn more here: <http://www.nybg.org/adulted/winterlectureseries-2016.php>.



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

January 18 **ELA Screening**→[Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home](#); Framingham, MA; 2:00-3:30pm.

January 19-20 - [Analyzing the Wild, Designing the Garden](#); Blue Bell, PA.

January 20 - [Pine Barrens Regional Conservation Forum](#); West Barnstable, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.

January 20-22 - [NOFA-NY Winter Conference - Long Live the Farmer: Diversity & Biodiversity](#); Saratoga Springs, NY.

January 21 **ELA Screening**→[Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home](#); Framingham, MA; 4:00-5:30pm.

January 22 - [Botany Blast: Seeing Climate Change in Your Backyard](#); Boston, MA; 2:30-3:30pm.

January 24 - [Preparing for Climate Change: Cambridge, MA](#); 9:00am-4:00pm.

January 24-25 - [Building Profits for Life](#); Milford, MA.

January 25 - [Forest Adaptation Planning & Practices](#); Cambridge, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

January 25 - [The Perfect Storm](#) - webinar; 1:00-2:30pm EST.

January 25-26 - [CNLA Winter Symposium & Expo](#); Plantsville, CT.

January 26 - [The Art of Gardening at Chanticleer](#); NYC, NY; 10:00-11:30am.

January 28 - [Pruning in Winter](#); Boston, MA; 9:00am-12:00pm.

January 28-29 - [NOFA-NJ Winter Conference: Food & Farming in the Garden State](#); New Brunswick, NJ.

January 31 **ELA Collaboration**→[Landscape Heroes: Carbon, Water, and Biodiversity](#); Amherst, MA;

8:00am-5:00pm.

February 1 **ELA Webinar**→[The Insider's Guide to Assessing SITES Viability](#) (rescheduled); 1:00-2:00pm EDT.

February 1 - [Nurturing the Liberated Landscape](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00 - 8:30pm.

February 2 - [The Characteristics, Impacts, and Costs of Invasive Insects](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am.

February 7 - [Green Industry Career Fair](#); Sturbridge, MA; 8:00am-12:00pm.

February 11 - [EcoLandscape California Conference and Trade Show](#); Stockton, CA; 8:00am-5:15pm.

February 16 - [Invasive Forest and Agricultural Insects in Massachusetts](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am.

February 16 **ELA Event**→[Designing Gardens for Small Spaces](#); Framingham, MA; 8:30am-12:00pm.

February 18-20 - [NOFA-VT Winter Conference](#); Burlington, VT.

February 21 - [Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.

February 22 - [Nature's Temples: Complex Old Growth Forests](#); Boston, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

February 23 - [The New Perennial Movement at Hermannshof Gardens](#); NYC, NY; 10:00-11:30am.

February 24 - [SNEC Winter Conference](#) - save the date; Berlin, CT.

February 25 **ELA Event**→[Design with Water in Mind](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-12:00pm.

February 25 - [Pruning Shrubs](#); Boston, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

March 1 - [The Art and Science of Growing Native Plants from Seed: Why, When, and How](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00 - 8:30pm.

March 2 - [Management of Invasive Forest and Landscape Insect Pests](#); Hadley, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.

March 5 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Warren, RI; 8:30am-4:30pm.

March 7 - [Community Tree Conference](#); Amherst, MA; 8:00am-3:30pm.

March 8-9 **ELA Conference**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.



### **Employment Opportunities**

#### **Stone Barns Center, Pocantico Hills, New York**

Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture has an opening for a full time Grounds Assistant beginning February/March 2017. This is a salaried, non-exempt position. The primary responsibility of this position is to provide operational assistance for the diversified landscape and composting operations at Stone Barns Center, focusing on the seasonal edible landscape, year round composting production, and technical landscape support. For more information contact the [Stone Barns Center](#).

#### **New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, Massachusetts**

The New England Wild Flower Society seeks an independent contractor to plan and lead twelve "Pollinate New England" (PNE) workshops throughout the region between February 2017 and September 2018. The consultant will report to the Society's Director of Public Programs and have regular communication with the Director of Horticulture. Successful applicants will have a background in horticulture and education and will have experience working with native plants and installing pollinator gardens. [Click for details and proposal instructions](#). Proposals are due by January 20, 2017.

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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*