



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

March 2016

Thank you to the attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, and volunteers who supported ELA's 22nd successful Conference & Eco-Marketplace. From an exploration of the amazing power of fungi to the inspirational landscape designs, the topics at the conference ranged from the practical to the sublime. Preparations are already underway for next year's conference, if you know of a topic ELA should explore or of speaker to investigate, [let us know](#).



Articles in this month's newsletter follow up on a few of the conference topics. Susan Barbier, Planters' Choice, takes a closer look at some good native plant choices and George Coombs, Mt. Cuba Center, presents research on coreopsis. Landscape lighting was featured Thursday morning at the conference, and Jennifer Nichols investigates concerns around lighting. Finally, Rob Davis introduces opportunities associated with landscapes in and around solar arrays. Enjoy the articles as you enjoy the turning of the season. *MS*



Conference Highlights

If you missed the 2016 Conference & Eco-Marketplace at UMass Amherst, there's no way to reproduce the energy and comradery, but you can [read the highlights](#).



Natives Beyond Naturalizing

by Susan Barbier

Whereas just a few years ago clients were requesting boxwood, cypress, and juniper for their landscapes, demand has grown for a diverse plant palette that includes many native plants. Here are some beautiful and reliable selections to search out. [Read the article](#).



The Compelling Case for Coreopsis

by George Coombs

With new cultivars arriving on the market each year, it's hard to deny the incredible popularity of coreopsis. However, frustration over the unpredictable and often short-lived nature of the plant prompted Mt. Cuba Center to conduct a comprehensive trial of 94 selections of annual and perennial coreopsis. [Read the article](#).



Tasteful Outdoor Lighting, Responsibly

by Jennifer Nichols

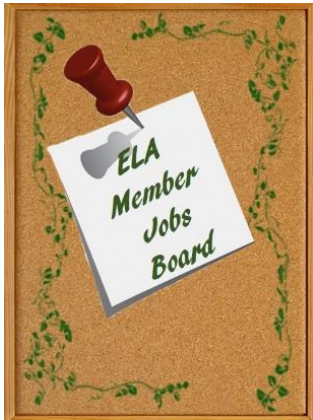
How does the environmentally responsible landscape company address lighting that might increase energy use or damage the night-time ecology? [Read the article.](#)



Green Landscapes on Solar Sites-an Enormous Business Opportunity

by Rob Davis

Landscapes that include solar installations are increasing each year. Could this be an opportunity to introduce more ecological landscapes? [Read the article.](#)



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 2016 SEASON

Brewer Landscapes, Edgartown, MA

Seeking turf manager for well established Marthas Vineyard landscape company. Position includes turf fertilizing and dealing with turf related issues. For more information, contact Paul @ Brewer Landscapes 508-627-8603 or 508-889-4188.

ELA News

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Did You Accept the Challenge?

Each year, ELA Conference attendees test their knowledge of winter plant identification with the annual ELA Conference Plant ID Quiz. An extremely challenging plant quiz for 2016 was curated by staff members at the New England Wild Flower Society. This year there were no perfect scores. Lauren Chase-Rowell and Rodbard Payne-Meyer tied for the most correct answers on Wednesday; Mary Tebo submitted the most correct answers on Thursday. All three win a free one-year ELA Professional Membership. Congratulations to our winners! Still not sure how you did on the quiz? [Click here](#) to view the answer key.



Gleanings

Plastic from CO₂ and Plants

Researchers have discovered a way to make plastic from carbon dioxide and inedible plant material. The new technology could allow agricultural waste and grasses to become a low-carbon alternative to items currently made with petroleum-based plastic. [Read more.](#)



"Wrong" Trees Increase Global Warming

A new study disputes the assumption that planting new forests can help limit climate change. Research into managed forests in Europe indicates that they have been a net source of carbon. "Europe's Forest Management Did Not Mitigate Climate Warming" appears in the February 5, 2016 issue of *Science*. [Read the BBC report.](#)



Phone App Tracks Exposure to Toxic Chemicals

Silent Spring Institute recently released [Detox Me](#), a phone app that provides simple, research-based tips that will help you track and reduce your exposure to potentially harmful chemicals wherever you go.



Draft of Pollinator Protection Plan Under Review

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is seeking public comment on the state's draft of a [Pollinator Protection Plan](#). You may send comments via email to Kim.Kyrm@state.ma.us with the subject line: Pollinator Plan Comments before March 31, 2016, or you maybe attend a schedule listening session. [Click for the schedule](#) and additional information.



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

- March 19 - [The Land and Water Conservation Summit](#); Providence, RI.
- March 19 - [Apple Tree Grafting - a Hands-on Workshop](#); Belchertown, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- March 20 - [Where the Wild Things Are: Native Plants for Pollinators](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.
- March 22 - [Massachusetts Water Forum](#); Boston, MA; 1:00-6:30pm.
- March 22 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#); 9:00am-2:00pm.
- March 24 - [Systems Approach to Natural Turf Management](#); Madison, WI; 8:00am-4:30pm.

March 31 - [Sustainable Landscapes Management](#): Spring Kickoff for Landscapers; Wareham, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

April 2 - [MA Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.

April 3 - [How to Create a Pollinator Victory Garden](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

April 5 - [Employee Training for Garden Retailers](#); Sturbridge, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.

April 6 **ELA Event**→[Eco-tour: Battery Park City Composting - Building a Sustainable Eco-System](#); 6:00pm EST.

April 6 - [Spring Wildflowers: Ephemeral Beauty with a Purpose](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30 pm.

April 7 - Natural Turf and Landscape Management: Choices and Challenges; Swampscott, MA; 7:00-8:30pm. **For more info contact:** Martha Dansdill at 781-249-7490 or Sarah Pruett at 970-819-0366.

April 9 - [Orchard Pest Management](#); Harvard, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.

April 10 - [Landscaping with Native Plants: Healing Our Home Turf](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

April 13 - [Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.

April 15 - [Sustainable Campuses and Communities](#); Amherst, MA.

April 16 - [Sustainable Campuses and Communities](#); Northampton, MA.

April 23 - [Invasive Plants in Massachusetts](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

April 24 **ELA Event**→[Soil Workshop - Ground Rules: Measuring Soil Health and Managing Site Challenges in the Urban Landscape](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

May 4 - [Planting in a Post-Wild World](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30 pm.

May 14 - [Water Neutral Landscapes](#); Aptos, CA; 9:00am-3:00pm.

May 21 - [Pine Fest: A Pine Barrens Multicultural Celebration](#); Myles Standish State Forest, Carver, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.

May 22 **ELA Event**→[Invasive Plants: What Are They? And What Can Be Done?](#); Walpole, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

June 5&12 **ELA Event**→[Herbaceous Native Plants for Professionals](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:00pm.

June 9 **ELA Event**→[Spring Splendor - The Native Plants at Connecticut College Arboretum](#); New London, CT; 10:00am-12:00pm.

June 18 9 **ELA Event**→[Eco-tour: Recreational Lake Shore Restoration at Lake Massapoag](#); Sharon, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

June 25 **ELA Event**→[Eco-tour: Edible Landscape Oasis - Permaculture in Practice](#); Holyoke, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

June 28&29 - [Reduce & Recover: Save Food for People](#); Cambridge, MA. Early Bird rates before April 17.

July 23 **ELA Event**→[Eco-Tour: Wildlife Haven at Turkey Hill Brook Farm](#); Spencer, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

August 3 **ELA Event**→[Eco-Tour: YardScaping Ecological Demonstration Gardens](#); Portland, ME; 4:00-6:00pm.

August 11 **ELA Event**→[Eco-Tour: Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind](#); Boston, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

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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

