

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

May 2017



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

From the Editor

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Lyme and other diseases spread by ticks are a continuing and growing problem. So take time to brush up on your tick avoidance protocols and remind others working in the landscape about the dangers. Be sure to

* Check the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) most up-to-date advice on protecting against tick bites.

* Read an article from the ELA Archives: [Reducing Tick-Borne Disease in New England Using Integrated Pest Management](#).

* Talk to your Representative in the U.S House about signing up for the [House Lyme Caucus](#). May is also a great time to celebrate native plants. From Joe-Pye weed to summersweet to oak ecosystems of the Northwest, this issue of the newsletter explores the beauty and practicality of native plants. After reading, take a moment to look at the list of gardens on ELA's first "[Celebrating Native Plants](#)" tour. Scheduled for Saturday, June 24 this free event lets you visit native plant gardens all around Massachusetts and get tips from the property owner or manager. It should be a fun day. *MS*



An Introduction to Joe-Pye by Ian Caton

Joe-Pye weed is a familiar sight in wetlands and roadside ditches and is commonly used in the landscape trade. However, understanding and identifying the differences between the various species is difficult for many who aren't botanists. And, vague descriptions have led many designers, gardeners, and nurserymen to treat them largely as interchangeable, misunderstanding the ecological differences and distributions of these plants. [Read the article](#).



High Impact Native American Shrubs by Thomas Berger

As homeowners become more aware of native plants and how they might be integrated into their landscapes, the nursery trade has responded by including more natives in their collections and plant breeders have come up with improvements no one would have expected just a few years ago. What are the ecological benefits and aesthetic value of these new varieties? [Read the article.](#)



Prairie-Oak Ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest by Eileen Stark

Plants, the primary producers on this planet, belong to irreplaceable, intricate ancient ecosystems, within which they support and depend on other species - both flora and fauna - to survive. Among the most imperiled ecosystems in North America are the Pacific Northwest's oak ecosystems ruled by *Quercus garryana*, as well as its associated ecosystems. [Read the article.](#)



Native Grass and Wildflower Seeding: Q&A with the Experts by Tara Mitchell

At ELA's 23rd Annual Conference in March three highly knowledgeable experts fielded questions during panel session on Native Grass and Wildflower Seeding. **Mark Fiely**, Horticulturalist at Ernst Conservation Seeds, **Carlos Montoya**, owner of Native Plant Associates on Martha's Vineyard, and **Larry Weaner** of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, moderated by **George Batchelor**, Landscape Supervisor for MA Department of Transportation's Highway Division, shared their expertise and experience in a wide-ranging discussion. [Read the session summary.](#)



The Disconnect Between Garden Aesthetics and Local Ecology

by Curtis Jirsa

Whether we're planting for beauty or weeding for uniformity, we impact our local ecosystems. As gardeners, shouldn't we consider *both* ecological impact and beauty when deciding what to plant? What could possibly be at stake? [Read the article.](#)



Rose Insect Pest Alert The Roseslug Sawfly, Hymenoptera:Tenthredinidae

by Bruce Wenning

In May and June, roseslug sawfly larvae begin to feed on roses in the northeastern United States, causing "windowpane" damage to plant leaves. Learn more about this prominent pest. [Read the fact sheet.](#)

ELA News

Celebrating Natives: Massachusetts Statewide Garden Tour

From 12:00 to 4:00pm on Saturday, June 24 and Saturday, August 12

From paths, to ponds, to pocket gardens and from borders, to backyards, to botanical gardens, native plants are finding a home. ELA's 2017 tour of native gardens offers you the opportunity to discover beautiful gardens of native plants all around Massachusetts. The event is free, but visitors have to register.

Sign Up to Showcase Your Native Plant Projects

Sign up now to be part of ELA's first ecological garden tour to feature designer-guided, homeowner-guided, or self-guided tours of private and public gardens that celebrate the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants and ecological practices. Find out more about the event and [register your garden for the August tour.](#)

Register for Free Tours of Gardens

Attendee registration for the June 24 tour is open. Attendance is free, and you can visit as many gardens as you like. You must, however, sign up for each garden individually. Because some gardens have limited parking, hosts have restricted the number of visitors. [Register soon to ensure your choices.](#)





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[Become a Member!](#)



Gleanings

Caution: Check Carefully to Find Neonicotinoid Free Plants

Although big box stores, such as Home Depot and Lowes, have indicated they are phasing out plants treated with neonicotinoid, treated plants will be in stores for at least another year. In the meantime, buyer beware. A recent post in [Sustainable Wellesley](#) (MA) indicates that stores are currently selling milkweed (the host plant of monarch butterflies) treated with a neonicotinoid insecticide.

Neonicotinoids are a family of systemic insecticides that are transported throughout the entire plant system from roots, to leaves, to flowers, to pollen and nectar. Anything that feeds on any part of the plant will ingest some of the insecticide - with potentially deadly results. Neonicotinoids affect the central nervous system of insects, resulting in paralysis and death. They have also been implicated in Colony Collapse Disorder in honeybee hives.

If you are purchasing plants whether at a box store or local nursery, check plants for a stick and then read the stick carefully. Staff often does not know about the neonicotinoid issue, so if you can't find a label, ask questions and use your shopping excursion as an opportunity to educate. Alternatively, purchase plants from organic sources in your area or from sources known to grow plants that are free of systemic pesticides (including acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam among others).



Photo Courtesy Doug Roberts



Environmental Restoration Planners: Help Requested

ELA members have been asked to help with the U.S. Department of Labor's O*NET project by providing career information. If you work as an Environmental Restoration Planner, Research Triangle Institute, a non-profit research institution, seeks your input to include in a free national database accessed by millions of employers, veterans, job seekers, researchers, educators, and students each year for career exploration, workforce development and writing job descriptions for hiring and training. The title broadly applies to those collaborating with field and biology staff to oversee implementation of restoration projects and to develop new projects. [Click to read more.](#) To participate, email or phone Traci Davis (tdavis@onet.rti.org), 877-233-7348 ext.109



Why It's Time to Stop Punishing Our Soils with Fertilizer

Yale Environment 360 interviews researcher Rick Haney, U.S. Department of Agriculture, about the folly of pursuing ever-greater crop yields using fertilizers and other chemicals that destroy soils and about how farmland can be restored through natural methods. [Read the article.](#)



Vt. Scientists Boost Biodiversity by Guiding Middle-aged Forests to Mimic Ancient Ones

With only one percent of old growth forest remaining in the northeast U.S., a new University of Vermont study finds that harvesting trees in way that mimics old growth forests both restores critical habitat and stores a surprising amount of carbon. [Read the article.](#)



National Trails Day

Connect with others on June 3, National Trails Day, at an event scheduled near you. Or, create your own event and hit the trails. [Click for more information.](#)



Garden for Wildlife Giveaway

Through May 31st anyone who signs up for the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife e-Newsletter will be entered to win four "habitat helpers" to enhance your wildlife habitat garden plus a limited edition of *Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife*, signed by its author, NWF Naturalist, David Mizejewski. Habitat items include Bird feeder, Hanging Bird Bath, Butterfly House, Wren Nesting House. Go to www.nwf.org/habitatgiveaway.



Certification and Sign Discount

During the month of May, save 20% when you certify your property and purchase the aluminum Certified Wildlife Habitat sign. This is a limited time offer valued at \$50, available for only \$40 during Garden for Wildlife Month. [Click to find out more.](#)



Share the Compost Story

Need to convince someone of the many benefits of composting food waste? Just want to celebrate the end of International Compost Awareness Week? View and share this video by Kiss the Ground: <http://kisstheground.com/thecompoststory/>.



Gypsy Moths Bring More Bad News to Region

EcoRI provides an update on the anticipated effects of gypsy moth caterpillars on forests and water quality. [Read the story.](#)



Massachusetts Pollinator Protection Plan

The Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has released a Pollinator Protection Plan outlining voluntary guidelines for best management practices that promote healthy pollinators, including the European honey bee. [Click for the pdf](#) or find the link on Mass.gov.



New Opportunities to Visit Tidmarsh Restoration

You can join Tidmarsh Farms' owners and Mass Audubon naturalists in May or June for a guided tour of the largest freshwater wetlands restoration in Massachusetts. [Find out more.](#)



Free Training: Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) and the New Normal for California Landscaping

Attend the live event or a simulcast on June 15, 2017 from 8:30am-4:30pm.

To attend live at PEC, 851 Howard Street in San Francisco, [click here to register.](#)

To attend the Simulcast via the Internet, [click here to register.](#)

This full-day training will include an expansive look at the ordinance and will explore an array of design strategies that meet the standard. Speakers will include two landscape designers, an irrigation specialist, and a compost specialist. The training will also include a couple interactive design activities where the participants will apply the concepts covered and get feedback on their solutions. The Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance training is being developed through a partnership between StopWaste (www.stopwaste.org) and PG&E and is free to the public.



20th Anniversary Lecture Series at URI

The Metcalf Institute of the University of Rhode Island offers a free annual series of public lectures from experts in science, policy, and public engagement of environmental issues. This year's series begins on June 5. Find the list of this year's speakers at <http://metcalfinstitute.org/lectures/als-2017>.



Environmental Art Exhibit

Enjoy the blending of art and ecology from May 6-June 18 at the [Marblehead Arts Association](#) exhibit "Resilient Landscapes of Marblehead and Cape Ann: Viewed through the Prism of Ecology and Stories." [Click to find out more](#).



Grants!

Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI) Community Grants

TURI grants support organizations creating and promoting healthier communities throughout the MA Commonwealth by raising awareness and education about safer alternatives. Click [here](#) for details. Deadline: June 23, 2017.



Call for Presenters

Highlight your experience working on trails and trail-related projects in a presentation at the 2017 Massachusetts Trails Conference, November 3-4. Proposals due by Friday, June 2, 2017. [Find more information here](#).

The Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators seeks horticulture-focused presentations for their annual conference to be held in Marlborough on June 29th. [Find more information here](#).

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

May 16 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Lincoln Park](#); Lexington, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.

May 17 - [What Health Dangers Do Immigrant Laborers Face in the Landscape Industry](#); Salem, MA; 6:00-7:30pm.

May 18 - [MA Smart Growth Conference](#); Worcester, MA.

May 18 - [Insect, Disease and Weed Problems in the Landscape](#); Westfield, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

May 23 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Roger Williams Park - Artful Stormwater Solutions](#); Providence, RI; 10:30am-12:30pm.

May 31 - [Hope in a New Ecology](#); Boston, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

June 4 **ELA Event**→[Rain Garden Fundamentals](#); Framingham, MA; 1:30-3:00pm.

June 4-10 - [Introduction to Bryophytes and Lichens](#); Steuben, ME.

June 7 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Fuller Brook Park Streambank Restoration](#); Wellesley, MA; 4:30-6:30pm.

June 7 - [Improving Water Quality in Your Own Backyard](#); Worcester, MA; 5:30-7:30pm.

June 7-10 - [Native Plants in the Landscape Conference: Building Communities...One Plant at a Time](#); Millersville, PA.

June 8 - [Weed Walkabout](#); Walpole, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.

June 10-11 - [Mother Earth News Fair](#); Burlington, VT.

June 11-17 - [Mosses: Structure, Ecology, and Identification](#); Steuben, ME.

June 12-13 - [Herpetology Workshop](#); Stokes State Forest, NJ.

June 14 - [Supporting Pollinators & Saving Water Workshop](#); Worcester, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

June 15 **ELA Eco-tour**→[YardScaping Ecological Demonstration Gardens](#); Portland, ME; 4:00-6:00pm.

June 15 - [Warren Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner](#); Boston, MA;

6:00pm.

June 15 - [Insect, Weed and Cultural Problems in the Landscape](#); Beverly, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

June 16 **ELA Event**→ [Designing a Garden for All Seasons](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.

June 16-18 - [Native Plant Communities: A Weekend Retreat with Darrel Morrison](#); Cornwall, NY.

June 17 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Lush, Lovely, and Lawn-Free Gardens](#); Brookline, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

June 18-24 - [Bogs and Fens: Maine Peatlands](#); Steuben, ME.

June 19 - [Gowanus Green + Blue 10th Birthday Bash](#); Brooklyn, NY; 7:00pm.

June 20 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Heritage Museums & Gardens](#); Sandwich, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

June 21 **ELA Event**→ [Growing a Vibrant Shade Garden](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.

June 24 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating the Natives](#); sites throughout Massachusetts; 12:00-4:00pm.

June 24-25 - [Gardening with the Masters Garden Tour](#); sites around Rhode Island; 10:00am-4:00pm.

June 25-July 1 - [Liverworts and Liverwort Ecology](#); Steuben, ME.

June 27 **ELA Event**→[The Role of Plants in an Aquatic Ecosystem](#); Mendon, MA; 10:00am-12:30pm.

June 27-29 - [One Water Summit](#); New Orleans, LA.

June 30 **ELA Event**→[Birds & Bees: Meadows and Native Field Trials](#); Shelburne, VT; 1:00-3:00pm.

July 2-8 - [Sedges and Rushes: Identification and Ecology](#); Steuben, ME.

July 9 **ELA Event**→[Tried and True Natives](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

July 11 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Irrigation Tools and Techniques at The Greenway and Seaport Parks](#); Boston, MA; 10:00-12:00pm.

July 11- [Drought-Tolerant Plants for the Dog Days of Summer](#); Boston, MA; 6:30-8:30pm.

July 20 **ELA Event**→[Phyto Filtration: The Power of Plants](#); Mendon, MA; 9:30-11:30am.

July 20 - [Earth Care Farm Compost Tour](#): Soil Fertility and Garlic Harvesting/Curing; Charlestown, RI; 5:30pm.

July 23 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Landscaping for Wildlife - Gardening with a Purpose](#); Walpole, NH; 1:00-3:00pm.

July 25 **ELA Event**→[Alternatives to Traditional Lawns](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-5:00pm.

July 26 - [UMass Turf Research Field Day](#); South Deerfield, MA; 8:00am-1:00pm.

July 27 **ELA Eco-tour**→[In Pursuit of Balanced Ecosystems, Land Stewardship, and the Perfect Loaf](#); Norwich, VT; 10:30am-12:30pm.



Massachusetts Locations

Terracorps, formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. This year we are looking for 36 members to serve in full-time, 11 month positions. Members will carry out capacity building projects; educate or train individuals; recruit, train, manage, and support community volunteers engaged in land-based activities; and identify new individuals and groups to participate in education, recreation, or service opportunities centered on land access and conservation.

Members serve as: Land Stewardship Coordinator, Regional Conservation Coordinator, Youth Education Coordinator, or Community Engagement Coordinator. These 17,000 hour AmeriCorps positions receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits. The 2017-2018 program will run from 8/28/17 - 7/27/18. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Interviews begin mid-April, and we aim to fill all positions by the beginning of June.

Application specifics, position descriptions, and information about organizations hosting

TerraCorps members can be found [here](#).



Green City Growers

Founded in 2008, Green City Growers: Green City Growers (GCG) is the Northeast's premier urban farming business, specializing in the installation and maintenance of raised bed gardens, rooftop farms and indoor growing systems. GCG transforms unused space into thriving urban farms, providing immediate access to nutritious produce while revitalizing city landscapes and inspiring self-sufficiency through garden education programs. GCG's clients include Whole Foods

Market, Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, athenahealth, Boston Properties, and Fenway Farms at Fenway Park. <http://www.greencitygrowers.com/>

Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

Larry Weaner Landscape Associates (LWLA) is nationally recognized for combining environmental science with the rich artistic traditions of landscape design. With over 30 years of experience on diverse projects throughout the eastern U.S.,



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Moodscapes LLC

Moodscapes is a full service, organic landscape design and maintenance company located in Arlington, Massachusetts. Through our process of engage, create, build and care we strive to create ecologically friendly landscapes that extend living to the outdoors to help everyone connect with the healing powers of nature. <http://www.moodscapesdesign.com/>



Gardens by Barbara Conolly, Inc. is a residential landscape design, installation, and management company. We provide thoughtfully created solutions that vary in scale from single garden design to complete property renovations. Working in cooperation with contractors, architects, and clients, we effectively develop sustainable landscapes that meet our clients' varying needs. Contact Barbara at:

www.gardensbybarbaraconolly.com



Planters' Choice, LLC

Planters' Choice is a full-service wholesale nursery in Fairfield and Litchfield counties providing a complete line of ornamental plant material to the trade. With field and container production on separate farms in Connecticut, we sell a complete line of nursery stock including an extensive selection of landscape quality native plants at exceptional prices.

<http://planterschoice.com/>

the Conway School

Graduate Program in Sustainable Landscape Planning + Design

The Conway School is a graduate program in landscape design and planning. Students work on real projects for real clients and graduate with a

Master of Science in Ecological Design. The program is located in Easthampton, Massachusetts.

<http://www.csld.edu/>



PJC Organic

PJC Organic manufactures & distributes Organic Turf Care Products. We work directly with landscapers, schools & municipalities providing product, support, education and business tools to develop an Organic Turf Care Program for the maintenance of their lawns & athletic fields.

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