



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

November

In past years, ELA celebrated November as membership month - a time to thank our members and ask for their support for the coming year. With implementation of rolling enrollment, we now welcome members throughout the year, but we'd still like to take time now to thank our members and donors for their financial support as ELA looks forward to another year of diverse educational content in a variety of venues and mediums.

As many members wrap up their growing season, this issue of the newsletter offers perspectives on the year from members in Minnesota and Massachusetts. Water, both too much and too little, was a common theme in many parts of the country and that turns out to be a topic shared in both season wrap-up articles. We also have two answers from Eco-Pros one on mulching and a second on solarization of invasives, a follow up question to ELA's chemical-free weed control workshop in July. Finally we're reprinting "How to Choose an Ecological Landscaper," excerpted from [Discover Ecological Landscaping](#). We hope you'll share the short article or the entire booklet with your clients, neighbors, or friends as they look for an Eco-Pro to help in their landscapes. *MS*



Observations from the Minneapolis St. Paul Season

by Daniel Peterson

What a fantastic season for landscapes. The weather has been exceptionally cooperative in the Minneapolis St. Paul area. Pollinators have had a busy year from early April until the beginning of November. There has been an upswing in client interest for more ecologically sound landscape design/installation practice with thoughts going beyond a couple of years and thinking for generations. [Read the article.](#)



A Year of Drought-tolerant and Xeriscape Landscapes

by Benjamin Crouch

2015 has been a year of terrible drought in many parts of the country. Even Massachusetts suffered from extreme heat and long periods without rain late in summer. Gardening for water conservation is becoming crucial to creating successful gardens. Perhaps it was the news from California, South Africa, or Sao Paulo, but water conservation was on the minds of many of our clients this year. [Read the article.](#)

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.



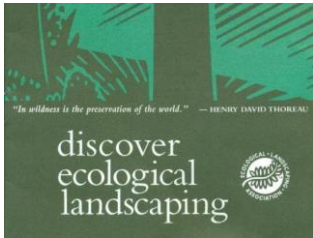
Mulch Matters

I recently read an article, "The Mulch Matters" and want to understand more. I would like to plant several Japanese maples and at present have only pine straw for mulch. What more can I do to improve soil quality for these trees (since they prefer a more acidic nutrient base) without using fertilizers? [Read the Pro's answer.](#)



Solarization of Invasive Plants

What invasive plants can be successfully controlled using solarization? What is the most effective procedure? What are the drawbacks of this method? [Read the Pro's answer.](#)



How to Choose an Ecological Landscaper

This updated excerpt from *Discover Ecological Landscaping* is a valuable educational tool you can share with clients, neighbors, or anyone wondering what distinguishes an ecological landscape professional. [Read the article.](#)

ELA News

Second Large-Scale Landscape Symposium Revisits Wellesley College

ELA revisits larger landscapes on January 13, 2016, when we join Wellesley College for the second Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium. This year's theme is Exploring Ecological Options and speakers will explore the development and maintenance of large landscapes utilizing fewer inputs and will consider the long-term sustainability of landscapes. [Click for more information about presentations and speakers.](#)



Pennsylvania Workshop: Sold Out!

[Ecological Synergies: Understanding Performance-Based, Resilient Landscapes](#) has sold out; however, we are maintaining a waiting list in case of last-minute cancellations. [Click here to be added to the wait list.](#)

Gleanings

Free Milkweed Seed to Save Monarch Butterflies

The Save the Monarchs Foundation, devoted to saving the Monarchs by encouraging people to plant milkweed along butterfly migration routes, is offering up to three packets of free milkweed seeds (*Asclepias incarnata*) to anyone requesting them. You can order from [the Save Our Monarchs website](#); donations appreciated. In 2015 the foundation hopes to distribute over 1 million milkweed seed packets nationwide.



MA Energy and Environmental Literacy Plan|

Build community and collaborate across Formal Education, Community Education, Business, and Government in an evening event that celebrates the development of the Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Literacy Plan (MEELP). Now is the time to lend your voice to the discussion and provide support for future implementation. Join the discussion on November 18, 6:00-9:00pm, in Westborough, MA. [Click to register](#) for this free event.



Paul Hellmund Steps Down at Conway School

After ten years leading the Conway School, Paul Hellmund recently stepped down from his post. Under Hellmund's leadership, Conway opened a second, urban campus in Easthampton, MA; changed the name of the degree to Master of Science in Ecological Design; increased the profile of the school regionally, nationally, and internationally; and significantly elevated the institution's fund development efforts. Paul has relocated to Colorado, but can be reached at

Paul@Hellmund.Associates.



Celebration of Cultures

[Roger Williams Park Botanical Center](#) in Providence, RI celebrates the city's rich culture with a free event on December 5th. A fun way to visit the center and enjoy great entertainment.



Insuring Green Roofs

A Vermont reader recently asked for information about others' experiences insuring their green roofs after finding it difficult to get insurance on a home with a sod roof. If you have information you can share, let us know at ela_new@verizon.net.



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

November 17 - [Biochar for Stormwater Treatment](#) - Webinar; 1:00 EST.

November 18 - [Matching Appropriate Seed to Conservation Practices](#) - Webinar; 2:00-3:00pm EST.

November 18 - [Cost-Effective Community Stormwater Solutions](#); Worcester, MA; 5:00-8:30pm.

November 18 - [NY Botanical Garden Symposium: Growing the Urban Farm](#); Bronx, NY; 6:00-8:00pm.

November 18 **ELA Event**→[Understanding Roots: Exploring Plants Underground](#) - Webinar; 7:00-8:00pm EST.

November 20 **ELA Event**→[Ecological Synergies: Understanding Performance-Based, Resilient Landscapes](#); Longwood Gardens, PA; 9:00am-5:00pm. Sold Out!

November 21 - [Six-Figure Farming for Small Plots](#); Warren, RI; 9:00am-4:30pm.

November 30 - [Divestment from Fossil Fuels](#); Newton, MA; 7:00pm.

December 2-4 - [New England Grows](#); Boston, MA.

December 5 - [Bare Trees and Naked Shrubs](#); Belmont, MA; 10:00am-2:00pm.

December 9 **ELA Event**→[Riparian Restoration Using Chemical-free Invasive Plant Control](#) - Webinar; 12:00-1:00pm EST.

December 14 - [NOFA Annual Gathering](#); Sturbridge, MA 8:00am-3:00pm

January 7&8 - [Zooming In/Zooming Out: Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive](#); New London, CT.

January 10 - [Urban Gardening Series: Water Conservation in the Garden](#); Cambridge, MA; 1:30-3:00pm.

January 11 **ELA Event**→[Garden Allies - The Art and Science of Conservation Biological Control](#) - Webinar; 1:00-2:00pm EST.

January 13 **ELA Event**→[Connecting the Drops: Creating Abundance with Rainwater Harvesting](#) - Webinar; 12:00-1:00pm EST.

January 13 **ELA Event**→[Large-Scale Landscapes Symposium: Exploring Ecological Options](#); Wellesley, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

January 14&15 - [Zooming In/Zooming Out: Native Design from the Intricate to the Expansive](#); Blue Bell, PA.

January 16 - [NOFA/Mass Winter Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 7:30am-7:30pm.

January 16 - [Killer Plants](#); Amherst, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

January 20 **ELA Event**→[Beyond LID: Green Infrastructure](#) - Webinar; 2:00-3:00pm EST.

January 27-February 17 - [Community Training in Ecological Design](#) (5-part series); Boscawen, NH.

March 9&10 **ELA Annual Conference**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.



Classified Ad

Cape Cod Home For Sale Features Natural Swimming Pond

Spacious contemporary cape located on quiet lane in East Sandwich. A very tranquil country setting with a natural swimming pond. The home has an open floor plan and was totally renovated in 2013. This house is perfect for either a year round residence or for summer enjoyment. It is located an hour from either Boston or Providence with quick access to Route 6. Contact **Gayle Swett** * 508-833-3333 * 339-222-1945 * gswett@kinlingrover.com.

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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*

 [Forward to a Friend](#)