

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

November 2017



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

From the Editor

The November issue of the newsletter customarily looks back at the season just wrapping up. In that tradition, our lead article is ELA's annual "year in review" piece with an installment from a Massachusetts member. We also present Maintenance Matters - a collection of member insights into maintenance problems and discoveries over the course of the season. Additionally, two articles are from authors who will be presenting at the [Ecological Plant Conference](#) in Brooklyn, NY on November 30. They offer a glimpse into the topics they will speak to in New York. Finally, one of our members who shared her gardens during ELA's inaugural garden tour now shares her experience with creating dry river beds.

As I reflect on the season's passing, I'd like to pause a moment to thank the many people who, over the past year, took time from their already busy schedules to pen articles to share in the newsletter. Their stories and their experiences are at the heart of ELA. I'll also share a general word of appreciation for the amazing programs developed by ELA's sole employee, Executive Director Penny Lewis. A one-woman dynamo, she keeps all ELA's parts in motion (including newsletter production) throughout the year while stunning us with innovative programs every season. Thanks for all you do. And to the volunteers on ELA's Board of Directors and committees, webinar presenters, garden tour hosts, financial donors, and perennial members, thank you for your support of ELA. I hope you find time to enjoy the bounty of the season. *MPS*



Renewal and Ruins: Season Wrap-up 2017 by Tricia Diggins

For the last six years, ELA has asked a member to record the growing season from spring to fall and to report back on what happened in the landscape over the course of the seasons. The 2017 installment features a member from eastern Massachusetts who reports the best growing season she's seen in many years, along with late-season drought and a resurgence of gypsy moth. [Read the article.](#)



Maintenance Matters

Contributors: John Magee, Daniel Peterson, and Bill Peregrine

Ongoing maintenance helps ensure the continued success of an installation but can present a myriad of problems. ELA asks three members representing different regions of the country to share their maintenance successes, challenges, and discoveries. [Read the article.](#)



For the Birds

By Karen Bussolini

Planting with overwintering birds in mind creates landscapes full of life and beauty. With a little planning and lots of native plants, any yard can become a richly diverse bird habitat cleverly disguised as a varied and pleasing home landscape. [Read the article.](#)

Karen presents **Double Duty: Garden Beauty with Plenty of Pollinators** at the [Ecological Plant Conference](#) in Brooklyn, NY on November 30.



A Word about Weeds

by Teri Dunn Chace

Excerpts taken from *How to Eradicate Invasive Plants* with permission of the author and publisher.

A weed pops up uninvited in places where we don't want that particular plant. Sometimes the culprit was introduced elsewhere intentionally, but many times it arrives in the garden unbidden and unnoticed until too late. What can the savvy gardener do to keep invasives out before they become a problem? [Read the article.](#)

Teri presents **Coping with Urban Invasives** at the [Ecological Plant Conference](#) in Brooklyn, NY on November 30.



Native Conifers Dominate Our Native Forests

Story and photos by Rob Zimmer

Printed with permission from *Wild Ones Journal* and Rob Zimmer

As the leaves fall and perennials die back, we appreciate even more the conifers in our landscapes. Native conifers thrive in many habitats and provide seasonal beauty along with food and shelter for wildlife. [Read the article.](#)

ELA News

Saying Good-bye to the Season

Earlier this month was ELA's 8th year gathering for a Season's End Summit - a time to reflect at the season's end, discuss success and failures, while finding inspiration for next year's projects. The 2017 event saw a very full house and brought together a stellar set of speakers focusing on the interconnectedness of plants and pollinators. Kudos and thanks to all for a very productive day!

November Conferences

Two more conferences remain in this packed fall season. Don't miss out!

You'll want to register soon for [The Evolving Role of Urban Landscapes, November 14, Winterthur, DE](#). A few seats remain.

Thank you to our Winterthur event sponsors!

Luncheon Sponsor: [Cavano's Perennials, Inc.](#)

Speaker Sponsors: [New Moon Nursery](#) and [Glover Perennials](#)

Restoration Sponsors: [Babikow Greenhouses](#) and [Ernst Seeds](#)

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The final event on the November calendar takes place on **November 30**. ELA hosts the [New York Ecological Plant Conference in Brooklyn, NY](#) with five experts who will share their extensive knowledge of and experience with plants.

If you are an ELA member, be sure to add the conference Pre-Party to your schedule. ELA board member Rebecca McMackin and her husband Chris Roddick will again host a pre-conference gathering of speakers and ELA members from 7:00-9:00pm on November 29th. Look for your emailed invitation.

Thank you to our New York event sponsors!

Sustaining Sponsor: [Planters' Choice](#)

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Webinars!

Hot new topics, knowledgeable presenters, your own comfy chair! **The Focus on Sustainability** webinar series for 2017-18 has begun. Check the list of presentations: [A Focus on Sustainability](#). Remember that ELA members attend webinars for free and have access to all archived events.

Check the complete list of ELA events [here](#).



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Gleanings

Urban Refuge: How Cities Can Help Rebuild Declining Bee Populations

With bees threatened by habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change, researchers are finding that planting lower patches in urban gardens and green spaces can help restore these essential pollinators. Results are being seen in cities from Chicago to London to Melbourne. [Read more in YaleEnvironment 360](#).

Leave the Leaves for Wildlife

You know that leaves left in place over the winter provide many garden benefits, helping to sustain plants and animals. Alternatives to raking leaves are beginning to take hold. Clients aren't convinced? Refer them to recent articles in [National Wildlife Federation](#) and [Xerces Society](#).

Kill Your Lawn and Go Native

EcoRi News interviews Mark Richardson on how to go about replacing the modern lawn with native plant alternatives. [Read the article](#).

Toilet Paper Pavement in The Netherlands

Made with a portion of recycled toilet paper, a parking lot and stretch of bike path help move a portion of The Netherlands' sludge out of the wastewater stream. [Read more in CityLab](#).

Flood-Proofing Lawns

Faced with centuries old water management systems, New Orleans looks at a street-level approach for handling heavy rain. De-paving and storm-wise landscaping can make a difference. [Read more in CityLab](#).

Call for Designers

COGdesign is looking for designers to develop a worthy set of projects in and around greater Boston. Email Jean at JKrasnow9@gmail.com for information.

Conway School Relocates to Easthampton

After 42 years in Conway, MA Conway School of Landscape and Design has shut down operations in Conway and moved to Easthampton, MA where the school opened a satellite campus in 2015. [Read the article in the Greenfield Recorder.](#)

Botany in Action Fellowships

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens (Pittsburgh, PA) is accepting proposals for its 2018 Botany in Action Fellowship program, which fosters the development of the next generation of plant-based scientist who are committed to both excellent research and educational outreach. Deadline January 12, 2018. [Find out more.](#)



Green City Growers, Somerville MA Director of Horticulture

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Director of Horticulture oversees the planting and maintenance of GCG's ~125 urban farm sites throughout the greater Boston area. They will manage the farm staff and delegate tasks in-house and on-site to ensure our gardens and services meet or exceed client expectations. The Director of Horticulture will collaborate and work to support GCG's other departments (i.e., education, sales, administrative, and operations), ensuring efficiency and smoothness of work. Strong people skills and the ability to direct others respectfully and effectively are requirements. The Director of Horticulture must also keep a constant eye toward improving products and systems as GCG continues to grow. Click here to see the full job description. To apply, please attach a resume and cover letter to jobs@greencitygrowers.com outlining your experience and desire to be part of our team. Please, no calls or emails other than to this address.

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

November 13 ELA Webinar→[Groundcovers - Ecological Solutions in Place of Mulch](#); 4:00-5:00pm EDT.

November 14 ELA Event→[The Evolving Role of Urban Landscapes](#); Winterthur, DE; 8:00am-4:30pm.

November 14 - [MEES Listening Session South Coast](#); New Bedford, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.

November 17 - ["Flora for Fauna", a Long Island Native Plant Initiative Symposium](#); Farmingdale State College, NY.

November 17-19 - [Climate Reckoning: Paths to an Earth Restored](#); Cambridge, MA;

November 29-December 1 - [New England Grows](#); Boston, MA.

November 30 ELA Event→[New York Ecological Landscape Conference](#); Brooklyn, NY; 9:00am-4:30pm.

November 30 - [Mass Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network Conference](#); Westborough, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

November 30-December 2 - [RootSkills Training](#); Manchester, NH.

December 2 ELA Event→[Seasonal Inspiration for The Winter Garden](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

December 9 ELA Event→[Meadows 1 2 3](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.


December 12 ELA Webinar→[Invasive Plant Control Without Chemicals](#); 4:00-5:00pm EST.

December 15 ELA Webinar→[The Enemy of My Enemy Is My Friend - Using Biological Products to Fight Diseases and Pests](#); 12:30-1:30pm EST.

January 8-February 16 - [UMass Winter School for Turf Managers](#); Amherst, MA.

January 13 - [31st Annual NOFA/Mass Winter Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 7:30am-7:30pm.

March 7&8 ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.



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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*

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