



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

September 2016

The angle of the sunlight filtering through the leaves, earlier sunset, and cooler morning temps portend the change of season next week. Even as the earth's cycles continue, dry weather persists in many regions. As the days shorten and cool, [ELA events](#) are on the rise. Trevor Smith, who just completed his term as ELA's president, presents an article this month that he will follow up with an eco-tour in a few weeks. Season 4 of ELA's webinar series, *Focus on Sustainability*, begins next week and this season brings a wide variety of ecological offerings. Webinars provide learning opportunities regardless of your location and are free for all ELA Members. Register for a webinar, join Trevor, or sign up for one of the many other events. There's a lot to choose from. *MS*



Designing with the Ecosystem: Don't Reinvent the Wheel, Catch a Ride on It by Emily Davis

Although it is critical to know your site specifications and installation details, there's a much larger component to being a good landscape designer, and that is understanding ecology. The author presents her list of ecological characteristics that inform a design principle. [Read the article.](#)



Paving the Way (Permeably) for John Hancock Charles River Walkway by Trevor Smith

A half-mile trail constructed behind an office park in Wellesley, MA incorporates careful design to prevent damage to the forest surrounding the trail and a porous surface (made from recycled materials) that prevents runoff into the adjacent river. [Read the article.](#)

The John Hancock Charles River Walkway opens to the public in October 2016. Trevor will conduct an [Eco-tour of the Charles River Walk](#), share more details, and answer questions about the project on October 17, 10:30am-12:30pm.



So Why Don't You Use the Chems, Mike? by Mike Bald

I get this question occasionally in my work managing invasive plants. When people are interested in hiring me, they do like to know the reasoning behind the company philosophy embracing only manual/mechanical methods. Since I always ask landowners about their vision for the property, I weave that exploration into the response about the methodologies. [Read the article.](#)



Community Design: How a New Pocket Park Came to the Near Northside by Katherine Sargent Cairoli

A community comes together to determine the future design of a pocket park. Inspired by a butterfly sculpture donated by a local artist, two teams of volunteer design professionals develop competing plans that also incorporates community priorities. [Read the article.](#)

ELA News

Fall Educational Events

As the weather cools, the educational opportunities heat up. Be sure to check the remaining [Eco-tours for 2016](#) as well the lineup for Season 4 of the webinar series [A Focus on Sustainability](#). Also look for:

- * ELA's 7th annual Season's End Summit: [Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind](#) on November 10 at the Community Harvest Project Barn in North Grafton, MA. The full-day event features presentations and a panel discussion. Continental breakfast and hot lunch included in registration.
- * Creating [Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep in Plant Knowledge with The Masters](#) is a special ELA collaboration with Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Bridge Park. Don't miss this unique opportunity on December 9 to gain functional horticultural information from those professionals with a deep understanding of plants. Morning coffee and catered lunch included in registration.



Feel Good When You Shop Online!

Shop through [AmazonSmile](#) and a portion of every eligible purchase goes to the charitable non-profit you choose. It's easy. Go to www.smile.amazon.com, enter your account as usual, specify Ecological Landscape Alliance as your preferred charity, and start shopping. You'll feel great!



**Enjoy the ELA Newsletter?
[Become a Member!](#)**

Gleanings

App Makes Biology a Game

Not sure what that insect is scaling your picnic table or buzzing the back porch light? Snap a photo on your phone and upload it to [iNaturalist](#). The app connects the public with citizen scientists who help you identify your "bug." At the same time, you contribute to the science of biodiversity. [Read the article.](#)



Soak Up the Rain Webinar Series

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers a webinar series highlighting innovative approaches to addressing stormwater in New England. [Find out more.](#)



Transforming Rivers

Read about seven cities that have transformed their rivers from "blights to beauties." [Read the article.](#)



Challenges to Green Streets and Stormwater

Jonathan Page, North Carolina State University, reports in *Sustainable Cities Collective* on [Challenges to Implementing Green Streets for Stormwater Management](#).



Barn Owls and Pest Control

Mark Browning, biologist and director of the Barn Owl/Rodent Project assesses the effectiveness and cost advantages of using barn owls to control rodent pests.

[Read the article](#).



Mini Grants from MAC

Mass Agriculture in the Classroom funds agriculture-related projects proposed by teachers and schools. Working on a school project that might meet the criteria?

[Check the guidelines](#). November 1 is the deadline for the next round of grants.



Grants for Native Seed

Applications for [Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program](#) are due by October 15. Non-profit organizations may apply for grant money used to obtain native plant seed for projects that offer outdoor learning opportunities, such as butterfly gardens, nature trails, or woodland habitat gardens.



UMass Extension Offers Drought Info

As dry conditions persist across much of New England, you can refer to a collection of fact sheets related to drought and water conservation. From annual plants to xeriscaping, find information on the [website](#).



New England Deforestation

Although forest destruction in the Amazon gets most of the press coverage, deforestation is also a problem closer to home. A recently released analysis of satellite data finds that after transitioning to forest in the 1980s, the expansion of affluent New England suburbs since then has contributed to secondary deforestation. [Read the article](#). [Read the study](#).



Seeking Presentation Proposals

Share your organic perspective at an upcoming conference.

* NOFA-VT application deadline September 21, 2016 for Conference February 18-20, 2017, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Details [here](#).



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

September 17 - [12th Annual Sustainability Summit](#); Northampton, MA; 8:00am.

September 19 - [Facing the Surge: Film and Panel Discussion](#); Providence, RI; 7:00-8:30pm.

September 20 - [Farming with Beneficial Insects: Conservation Biological Control Short Course](#); Keene, NH; 9:00am-4:30pm.

September 20 **ELA Webinar**→[Reawaking Large Landscapes - Activating the Space](#); 7:00pm.

September 22-October 20 (on Thursdays) - [Environmental Gardening](#); Topsfield, MA.

September 22 - [Clean Water Summit](#); Minneapolis, MN; 9:00am-4:30pm.

September 22-24 - [Trail Building and Stewardship Skills](#); Easthampton & Northampton, MA.

September 23 **ELA Symposium**→[Inspiration from a Prairie](#); Garden City, NY; 8:30am-3:30pm.

September 23 - [Soils Across the Landscape](#); Gardner, MA; 8:30am-4:00pm.

September 28-29 - [Environmental Film Festival On Tour: Boston](#); Cambridge, MA.

September 29 - [MA Green Careers Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am.

September 29 - [Pollinator Conservation with Xerces](#); Westampton, NJ; 9:00am-4:30pm.

October 2 - [Celebrating Connecticut's Landscape: Fall Foliage Tour](#)

(focus on habitat management projects); meet in Burlington, CT; 10:00am-4:00pm.

October 4 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Ecological Landscape Maintenance Techniques at Mass Audubon](#); Belmont, MA; 3:00-5:00pm.
October 6 - [Soaking Up the Rain at K-12 Schools](#) - Webinar; 3:00-4:30pm EST.
October 7 - [Building with Stone](#); Westhampton, MA.
October 11 - [Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group \(CIPWG\) Symposium](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-4:30pm.
October 12 **ELA Webinar**→[Improving Cash Flow: Better Business Practices for Landscape Professionals](#); 7:00pm EDT.
October 14-15 - [Tree Steward Training: Strengthening Branches in Your Community Forest](#); Petersham, MA.
October 15 - [School Garden Conference](#); Kingston, RI; 8:30am-3:30pm.
October 17 **ELA Eco-tour**→[John Hancock Charles River Walking Path](#); Wellesley, MA; 10:30am-12:30pm.
October 17 - [Passive House Massachusetts Symposium](#); Boston, MA; 9:00am-5:00pm.
October 19 - [Working Farms and Forests](#); Attleboro, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.
October 20 **ELA Webinar**→[Dirty Streets to Dirty BMPs: Maintaining Stormwater BMPs along Roadways](#); 1:00pm EDT.
October 20-21 - [Chainsaw Use, Safety, and Maintenance](#); Williamsburg, MA.
October 21-24 - [ASLA 2016 Annual Meeting and EXPO](#); New Orleans.
October 24-December 12 - [UMass Extension's Green School](#); Milford, MA. (Sept 23 ends early bird registration discount)
November 1 **ELA Webinar**→[Urban Tree Selection in a Changing Climate](#); 1:00pm EDT.
November 1 -deadline to apply for [URI Master Gardener Program Core Training](#).
November 1-4 -[CitiesAlive: Green Roof & Wall Conference](#); Washington, DC.
November 2 **ELA Webinar**→[How to Use Sex \(Gender\) and Power to Increase Sales](#); 4:00pm EDT.
November 2 - [Managing Phosphorus in Organic Residuals Applied to Soils](#); Marlborough, MA; 8:45am-4:00pm.
November 9-10 - [Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo](#); Boxborough, MA.
November 10 **ELA Symposium**→[2016 Season's End Summit: Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind](#); North Grafton, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.
November 16 **ELA Webinar**→[Soil Amendments: What Works, What Should Be Avoided?](#); 1:00-2:00pm EST.
November 30 - [Latest & Greatest EPA Tools for Implementing Green Infrastructure](#) - Webinar; 1:00-2:30pm EST.
December 8 **ELA Webinar**→[Evaluating Conservation Landscape Designs](#); 7:00-2:00pm EDT.
December 9 **ELA Symposium**→[Creating Ecological Plant Communities: Digging Deep into Plant Knowledge with the Masters](#); Brooklyn, NY; 8:00am-5:00pm.

Thank you for subscribing to ELA Newsletter! Support our efforts to educate and promote sustainable and ecological landscape practices by making a tax-deductible donation. We appreciate your support!

[Donate to ELA](#)

Each author appearing herein retains original copyright. Right to reproduce or disseminate all material herein, including to Columbia University Library's CAUSEWAY Project, is otherwise reserved by ELA. Please contact ELA for permission to reprint.

Mention of products is not intended to constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of ELA's directors, staff, or members.

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