



ecological
landscaping
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biodiversity • conservation • lawn care
maintenance • meadows • rain gardens
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water quality & recycling • wildlife habitats

September

Native plants elicit passion. From those who painstakingly collect their seed and nurture seedlings to others who strive to protect their habitat and advocate for their place in local ecosystems, native plants have acquired a dedicated following. This issue of the Newsletter offers different perspectives on the use of native plants around the world and especially their role in providing habitat for other native creatures. Native plants in California "farmscaping," in East Coast habitat gardens, and even along the Portuguese shore all offer incredible beauty alongside sustainability. After reading this group of articles, I've added more native plants to my garden wish list; I hope you'll make a few discoveries, too.

MS, Editor



Spotlight on Native Habitat Gardens: An Interview with Ellen Sousa

Ellen Sousa, author of *The Green Garden*, is a garden coach who helps local gardeners build, maintain, and nurture safe, healthy, and beautiful landscapes. She writes and speaks about habitat gardening with an emphasis on native plants and recently answered some questions for ELA. [Read the article](#)



Habitat Essentials

by Ellen Sousa

Habitat gardening is just like planning and designing the interior of your home. You consider the everyday needs of those you invite into your space, furnish or rearrange the space accordingly, and stock the cupboards well. No matter what types of wildlife you would like to attract, remember the basics. All living things require food, water,

shelter (from weather and predators) and a safe place to raise young. [Read the article](#)

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Enjoying Our Gardens More with Native Plants

by Margery Winters

To some of our visitors, the Marabeth Storrs Finn Native Plant Butterfly Garden at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT, is more of a wild area than a garden. Perhaps this perception comes from how gardens have been traditionally defined as a plot of ground, usually near a house, where various plants are cultivated. Wikipedia's definition of a garden as a planned space set aside for the display, cultivation, and enjoyment of plants and other forms of nature seems a much more suitable definition and goal for gardens, especially ours. Few gardens are as enjoyed by creatures of two, four, or more legs. [Read the article](#)



Farmscaping with Native Plants

by Josh Fodor

Farms worldwide have contributed greatly to the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat. Over the past twenty years native plants have begun to creep back in around the edges of farms as the utility of 'farmscaping' has been demonstrated. There are many practical and policy level challenges to successfully integrating native plants onto farms and maintaining their associated habitat values. [Read the article](#)



Native Plants from the Portuguese Shore

by Joao Oliveira

If I look at nature only and forget cars, houses, and signs, I might say that I live in California. Instead, I am in Portugal where there is great natural diversity, such as you might find along the coastline from Southern California to Oregon. But the Portuguese Shore is only 500 miles long. [Read the article](#)



You Calling Me a Purist?

by Sue Reed

In the world of landscape design, my second-least favorite sentence begins: "Oh, you're just one of those native plant purists who ..." and then goes on to end with: "is trying to recreate some sort of mythical pristine Eden.... believes that anyone who wants some pretty flowers in their yard is evil.... hates/fears all aliens and immigrants..." or some other variation on this theme. [Read the article](#)



Re-Focus, Re-Connect, and Re-Charge at ELA 3rd Annual Season's End Summit

November 15th 8:30 - 4:30 at the Warren Center, Ashland, MA
\$75 Members - \$95 Non-members (Includes Catered Lunch)

Morning Panel - Ecological Success Stories: "Hits and Near Misses"
Featuring award-winning landscape designers.

Afternoon Panel - Improving the "Business" Side of your Business
Featuring successful business owners and coaches.

Join us to evaluate the past season and **envision the next season!**

[More Info](#)

[Register Now](#)

September Gleanings

- **Creating Urban and Suburban Habitat with Native Plant Collections**
The University of Rhode Island Outreach Center has developed a how-to guide for landscape professionals and homeowners interested in enhancing or creating wildlife habitat on properties where space is limited. [Native Plant Site Solutions for Backyard Habitat](#), a 25-page illustrated publication authored by ELA Board Member Kate Venturini, includes nine native plant collections that can replace impervious surfaces and lawns, encouraging stormwater to infiltrate into the ground and providing food and shelter for native wildlife. The native plant collections are designed to match specific conditions including those associated with wind, salt and sun exposure and incorporate plants of different heights, bloom times, textures and colors. The [University of Rhode Island Outreach Center](#) has other excellent resources available on their website.
- [New England Campus Sustainability Forum](#); Colleges of the Fenway, Boston, MA; September 21.
- [Trails & Sails](#); throughout Essex County, MA; September 21-23 & 28-30.
- [Monterey Bay Master Gardeners Tour](#); Santa Cruz, CA; September 22, 10am-4pm.
- [Pool Party: Building a Vernal Pool](#); MA Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary; Wed, September 26, 9:00am-3:00pm. Rain date: Thurs, September 27.
- [Wetland Delineation for Beginners](#); Marion, MA; September 29, 8:30am-4:30pm.
- [Go Native U](#); Valhalla, NY; beginning September 29.
- [4th Massachusetts Green Career Conference](#); Marlborough, MA; October 4, 8:00am-4:00pm.

- 2012 Watershed and Stormwater Conference; Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, MD; October 8-10.
- Wetland Restoration Techniques Workshop; Syracuse, NY; October 8-12.
- URI Master Composter Training; Kingston Campus, RI; October 10, 13, 17, 24, 27, 30, & November 3.
- Wetland Delineation Refresher Workshop; Berlin, MA; October 11, 8:45am-4:00pm.
- Meadowscaping - A Recipe for Healthy Urban and Suburban Landscapes; Chatham, MA; October 13, 8:30-11:30am.
- Heritage Walks Weekend; Upper Housatonic River Valley, MA; October 13 & 14.
- Urban Water Sustainability Leadership Conference; Cincinnati, OH; October 15-17.
- Designing with Natives, part of the Rhody Native Propagation Workshop Series; URI Kingston Campus, RI; October 18, 6:00-8:00pm.
- Working for the Green; Devens, MA; Thurs, October 18.
- 23rd Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference, **request for proposals**; deadline October 19.
- Field ID and Seed Collection, part of the Rhody Native Propagation Workshop Series; October 20, 9:00am-noon or 1:00-4:00pm.
- Nursery and Landscape Research Field Day; Woodman Horticultural Farm at UNH, Durham, NH; October 24, 8:30am-noon.
- Attracting and Conserving Natural Enemies in Plant Production Yards and Greenhouses; Publick House, Sturbridge, MA; October 24, 9:30am-3:30pm.
- The 2012 Green Industry Conference; Louisville, KY; October 24-26.
- Invasive Plant Symposium; University of CT, Storrs, CT; October 25, 8am-4:20pm.
- UMass Extension's Green School; Holiday Inn, 265 Lakeside Ave, Marlborough, MA; October 31-December 12.
- Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo; DCU Center, Worcester, MA; November 7-8.

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We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter.

We welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net.

Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor

