



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

From the Editor

Although most of the United States is no longer experiencing extreme drought conditions, several regions are still abnormally dry. For those of us lucky enough to be in regions where rainfall has resumed, it's easy to envision another drought cycle in the near future. (You can check the current U.S. Drought Monitor map [here](#).) To better prepare us for future dry conditions, this issue of the newsletter follows up on several Idea Exchange panel discussions around drought at the ELA Conference in March.

Also, we hear from one of the professionals who will speak at the ELA Summer Workshop: [Alternatives to Traditional Lawns](#) on July 25 in Framingham, MA. The workshop will address best practices for ecological lawns, new regulations affecting lawn care, and alternatives to the traditional lawn. The afternoon includes a panel discussion that will let you quiz the panel of experts on your pressing lawn concerns. We hope you'll join us.

At 11:30, before the Summer Workshop, ELA will hold its annual meeting at which the ELA Board of Directors will present a newly developed Strategic Plan for the organization. All members are welcome. Bring your lunch and join us for networking and a stroll through Garden in the Woods. *MS*



Water and Big Brains by Mike Nadeau

All life depends on water and the fragile arrangement with Mother Nature to provide it. We need to use our brains and trade in water-thirsty landscapes for healthy, resilient landscapes that use water wisely. [Read the article](#).

Also read Mike's list of [considerations](#) when faced with drought conditions.



Drought and Pests by Heather Faubert

Given the relationships between droughts, plant-eating insects, and plant diseases, who are the winners and losers during a drought cycle? [Read the article](#).



The Science of Soil Biology during Drought: ELA Conference Takeaways

2017 ELA Conference Session Review by K. Miho
Connolly

The year 2016 was characterized by precipitation amounts well below average, coupled with record high temperatures. What happens underground when water becomes scarce?

[Read the session summary.](#)



Our Lawns Are Killing Us... It's Time to Kick the Habit

by Mark Richardson

Pristine turf grass lawns are as synonymous with America as baseball and apple pie. When the deeply-seated expectation of neighbors and communities for perfect lawns bumps against the knowledge that the fossil fuels and toxic chemicals used to maintain most lawns are poisoning our environment, what can we do? [Read the article.](#)

Mark presents Lawn Alternatives at the [ELA Summer](#)

[Workshop](#) on July 25.

ELA News

Summer Workshop July 25: Alternatives to Traditional Lawns

To thrive in New England, traditionally managed lawns require irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides. Despite the many costs, both financial and environmental, lawns and turf are predominant features of the landscape - valued as spaces for recreation as well as aesthetics. Following emerging best practices, it's possible to create healthy lawns and turf that are functional, aesthetic, and managed in ways that eliminate the negative effects on human health and the environment, meet regulatory guidelines, and are still cost effective. Join ELA for a half-day workshop exploring the alternatives to traditional lawns and lawn maintenance. [Click for more information.](#)



Native Plant Tours Continue August 12

After early-morning downpours, the rain held off for ELA's first garden tour of 2017. For garden visitors, it was a unique opportunity to see how native plants have been incorporated into landscapes and to benefit from the insights of the people who developed and work in those landscapes. Cheryl Mandler visited gardens in Concord and Lincoln, MA, reporting, "They were so interesting and the homeowners answered any questions we had. Please do this again. It is a wonderful way to spread the word on ecological gardening."

Hosts also enjoyed the day. Sharon McGregor, Concord, MA, shared her gardens on the June tour. "I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all who visited my yard. I was happy to provide helpful information, and I learned a great deal from my visitors as well!" Sharon enjoyed using her landscapes to promote native plant gardens and ecosystem restoration and to show others how she has dramatically reduced lawn and water use, eliminated use of chemicals, supported pollinators and provided habitat for many other species, and increased carbon drawdown. Her message to visitors: "The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss call for global actions to restore ecosystems - beginning in our own backyards. Linked one to another, property owners can contribute to local and regional moderation of climate and help recover declining species."

If you missed the June tours, you have a second chance to [Celebrate Native Plants](#) on August 12.

It's also not too late to share your project by hosting a stop on ELA's August tour celebrating the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants and ecological practices. [Register your garden for ELA's August tour.](#)

Support ELA Education



Enjoy the ELA Newsletter? Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits.
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Gleanings

Tick Awareness

As summer progresses, ticks continue to be a prominent concern. The University of Rhode Island (URI) [Tick Encounter Resource Center](#) offers a number of good resources, including a [Tick Management Handbook](#).



How to Plant a Tree in the Desert After focusing his engineering background on the desertification expected to intensify with global climate change, Jurriaan Ruys invented a low-tech, solution to planting trees in dry, barren landscapes. [Read the New Yorker article.](#) Learn more about Ruys at www.landlifecompany.com/



We're Teaching Kids the Wrong Ways to Fight Climate Change A Canadian teacher searches for the answers to his students' question: What can I do to stop climate change? Will recycling, giving up meat, or changing light bulbs make a difference? [Read more.](#)



"City Tree" Benefits Urban Environment In cities where planting trees is not an option, mobile installations of moss cultures help clean air areas of high pollution. [Read the story.](#)



Can Highways Save a Butterfly? The response to the staggering decline in the number of Monarch butterflies successfully negotiating their annual migration has been numerous habitat restoration initiatives. Their focus: everything from schoolyards to parks to interstate highways. Is the "Monarch Highway" the best solution to restore dwindling habitat? [Read the story in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



Why the World's Rivers Are Losing Sediment and Why It Matters Vast amounts of river-borne sediment are trapped behind the world's large dams, depriving areas downstream of material that is badly needed to build up the marshes and wetlands that act as a buffer against rising seas. [Read the story in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



Climate Adaptation

UMass Amherst and the Northeast Climate Science Center have formed a new Massachusetts Climate Adaptation Communications Work Group to provide communication resources and support for people working on the front lines of climate adaptation. The group seeks input through a questionnaire designed to learn the needs of this community. Questionnaire responses are anonymous, but participants can provide contact information and become involved with the group. [Find the questionnaire.](#)



Island Commits to Green Infrastructure to Control Polluted Stormwater

Aquidneck Island, home to Newport and Middletown, RI has invested in a number of green infrastructure projects to address polluted stormwater before it enters drinking-water sources and beaches. [Read the article in ecoRI News.](#)



Pollinator-Friendly Solar Resources

University of Vermont (UVM) offers online resources for developing the land under and around solar arrays, particularly pollinator-friendly vegetation. [Find out more.](#)



Insect Identification Online

Need help identifying an insect? Try the UMass Extension Online Resources for [Insect Identification.](#)



Black Swallow Wort

Black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*), a non-native invasive plant that has gained a foothold in New England during the 19th century has spread to Wisconsin and California. Now is the time to look for seed pods to collect and destroy before they burst and disperse. [Read the post by Green Newton.](#) [Learn more in the ELA Newsletter.](#)



Grants!

Lowe's Charitable & Educational Foundation

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation offers grants in communities where Lowe's operates stores and distribution centers. The Foundation's Community Partners grant program supports nonprofit organizations and municipalities undertaking high-need projects, such as building renovations and upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades, and safety improvements. Applications for the fall funding cycle will be accepted from July 3 to August 25, 2017. [Find out more.](#)



Call for Presenters & Exhibitors

MA Green Careers Conference

Present or exhibit at the 2017 [MA Green Careers Conference](#) on October 5-6. Send your 200-word proposal for a presentation to jenboudrie@gmail.com. To exhibit, email for details: jenboudrie@gmail.com.

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

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 20 - [Tough Plants, Tough Places](#); Waterbury, CT; 8:15am-3:15pm.
July 21 - [Annual Wood Plant Conference](#); Swarthmore, PA; 9:00am-4:30pm.
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.
August 3-4 - [Art and Land Conservation Symposium](#); Waterville, ME.
August 5-6 - [Mother Earth News Fair](#); Albany, OR.
August 9 **ELA Event**→[Native Plants for Professionals](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:00pm.
August 9 - [Pollinator Haven: Rethinking Your Landscape](#), Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, Manchester, VT; 5:00-6:30 pm.
August 9 - [Green Roof Design & Installation](#); Boston, MA; 8:30am-5:30pm. ELA Members receive 10% discount with code ELA10.

August 10&19 - [Practical Pruning](#); Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY.
 August 11 - [Dam Removal](#) (Soil & Water Conservation Society, Southern New England Chapter); Tauton, MA; 8:30am-1:00pm.
 August 11-13 - [NOFA Summer Conference](#); Amherst, MA.
 August 12 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating Native Plants](#); sites throughout Massachusetts; 12:00-4:00pm.
 August 19 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Lush, Lovely, and Lawn-Free Gardens](#); Brookline, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
 August 27-September 1 - [7th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#); Foz do Iguassu, Brazil.
 August 28-31 - [Adobe InDesign for Design Professionals: An Intensive Introduction](#); Easthampton, MA; 9:30am-5:00pm.
 August 30, September 2&13 **ELA Event**→[Native Woody Plant Materials](#); Framingham, MA.
 September 9 - The Foundation for Our Landscapes: Understanding Site Analysis and Soil; 1:00pm. Save the date.
 September 13 **ELA Eco-tour**→[North Creek Nurseries Test and Trial Gardens](#); Landenberg, PA; 10:00am-12:30pm.
 September 15-17 - [Mother Earth News Fair](#); Seven Springs, PA.
 September 23 - [Landscape and Forest Tree and Shrub Disease Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.
 September 23 - [Woods and Trails: A Pathway Forward](#); Sheffield, MA; 9:30am-4:00pm. ([PDF](#))
 September 27- [Plant Combinations for Beneficial Home Landscapes](#); Boston, MA; 4:00-6:00pm.
 October 4 - Plant Communities of Eastern Massachusetts: Vital Context for Landscape Design; 1:00pm. Save the date.
 October 5-6 - [Massachusetts Green Careers Conference](#); Westborough, MA.
 October 19 - [Native Plants and Pollinators Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-3:00pm.
 October 26-28 - [Land Trust Alliance Rally](#); Denver, CO.
 November 1 **ELA Event**→[Season's End Summit: The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#); Brookline Village, MA; 8:00am-4:30pm.



Grow Native Massachusetts

Waltham, MA

Grow Native Massachusetts seeks a talented professional to take lead responsibility for nonprofit administration, fundraising, and member engagement, working closely with our Founder, President, and Board of Directors. This person will also work in tandem with our Program Coordinator on managing and running all programs, with an emphasis on program operations and strengthening our strong volunteer base. [Job description and application info here.](#)



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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*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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