

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

February 2018



Advocating for ecological landscape practices
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

From the Editor

[ELA's 24th Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) promises to be another stellar event. This issue of the newsletter features several conference presenters who provide glimpses of the education that their conference sessions will offer attendees. From landscapes informed by art and music to those that utilize the plants that spontaneously appear in the urban landscape or to another that reflects the surrounding hills and woods, there's plenty of inspiration for both readers and conference goers. Articles in this issue also consider the importance of diversity in our landscapes and provide a review of a newly published book by two of conference presenters. Only a few days remain for early registration discounts. Don't miss this opportunity to brush up on the latest developments in ecological land care, to network with exhibitors and your peers, and to discover more ways to sustain the living landscape. See you in Amherst. *MPS*



Musings on Ecology, Art and Music in the Landscape by Darrel Morrison

Linking ecology and ecological processes with art and music in the design of landscapes has the potential to produce landscapes that are "ecological art" - that is simultaneously ecologically sound, experientially rich, reflective of the place, and dynamic. [Read the article.](#)

Darrel Morrison presents "Landscape Design as Ecological Art" at the Keynote Dinner on March 7 and "Design Inspired by Nature" on March 8 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#).



Exploring Rogue Territories by David Seiter

It's easy to forget the "nature" part of a city, but there are lessons to be learned from the spontaneous vegetation that arises in the tough conditions of the urban landscape. Wild urban plants provide a palette of greenery adapted to disturbed soils, widely available, and attractive to pollinators and other wildlife. [Read the article.](#)

David Seiter, author of *Spontaneous Urban Plants, Weeds in NYC*, presents "Designing a Patchwork Ecology in Urban Ecosystems" on March 8 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#).



A Walk in the Woods

by Lauren Stimson

Time spent exploring the back country hills of the Pioneer Valley as a graduate student and the ecologies discovered in those hills informed the author's concept for the landscape design at the new UMass Integrated Design Building. The project's collection of gardens represents familiar but distinct regional ecosystems that are connected by the site's hydrology and the building's topography. [Read the article.](#)

Lauren Stimson offers a guided tour of the new UMass Design Building on March 8 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)

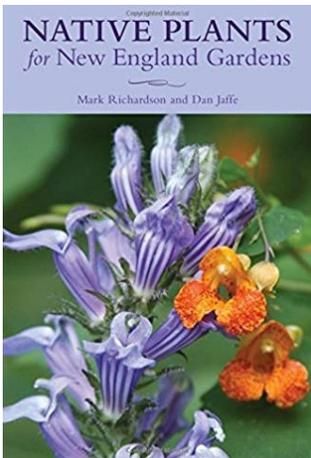


Landscaping with a Purpose - What' Diversity Got to Do with It?

by Dr. Randi Eckel

Given the fragmented ecosystems where we live and work, the importance of diversity in our landscapes cannot be over emphasized. Diverse native plants and the animal life they invite into the landscape all play a crucial role in sustaining a healthy environment. [Read the article.](#)

Dr. Eckel presents "Landscaping for Plant Diversity" on March 7 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)



Book Review: Native Plants for New England Gardens

by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe

Published by Globe Pequot Press, March 1, 2018

Reviewed by Angela Tanner

However daunting the site conditions in the built landscape, a native plant has usually evolved under similar conditions. But how do you identify that native plant? Written by two horticulture experts at Garden in the Woods, home of the New England Wild Flower Society, this book provides the answer. [Read the article.](#)

Richardson and Jaffe present "Why Mulch If You Can Plant" on March 8 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace.](#)



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24th Annual ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace

March 7 & 8, 2018 – UMass Amherst

Immerse yourself in ELA's two-day conference!

March 7th Two all-day workshops:
Designing for Carbon Sequestration and Methods of Maximizing Landscape Productivity and Potential
 Keynote address: **Professor Darrel Morrison, FASLA**

March 8th Three Rooms of Presentations

- The Intuitive Side of Design • Do weeds have value??
- Mimicking Nature's Patterns and Processes • Urban Wildlife Habitat
- Permaculture for Ecosystem Restoration and much more...

[Read the brochure and Register Early for Discounts!](#)



Gleanings

Can the World Find Solutions to the Nitrogen Pollution Crisis?

As more and more nitrogen pours into waterways, unleashing algal blooms and creating dead zones, scientists warn that the world must drastically cut back on synthetic fertilizers and double the efficiency of nitrogen used on farms. [Read the article in Yale environment360.](#)



On the Chesapeake: A Precarious Future of Rising Seas and High Tides

Maryland's Dorchester County is ground zero for climate change on Chesapeake Bay, as rising seas claim more and more land. *High Tide in Dorchester*, a film by Tom Horton, Dave Harp, and Sandy Cannon-Brown, explores the beauty of this liquid landscape and how the bay's communities are at risk from high tides and erosion. [Read more and view in Yale environment360.](#)



Scientists Race to Kill Mosquitoes Before They Kill Us

As temperatures rise, outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases including Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, are expected to become more commonplace in the United States. Pesticides cause adverse reactions in populations they are trying to protect and also become less effective over time. Are fungi the answer? Read more in [Sierra](#).



Warming Signs: How Diminished Snow Cover Puts Species in Peril

As the world warms, diminishing snow cover from the Alps to the Rockies is having a profound effect on ecosystems and disrupting the adaptive advantage of some northern species. [Read more in Yale environment360.](#)



Study Ties Phosphorus Loading in Lakes to Extreme Precipitation Events

April showers bring flowers, but also contribute to algae blooms, dead zones, and declining water quality in U.S. lakes, reservoirs, and coastal waters according to a new study. [Read from NSF.](#)



Supporting Bird-safe Buildings

In addition to providing habitat for birds and protection from cats, consider the threat posed by buildings surrounding the habitat. Up to one billion birds die in window strikes every year.

[Read more from Mass Audubon.](#)



Professional Horticulture Offerings in Maine

Coastal Maine Botanical Garden has introduced a series of educational events for horticulture professionals. Courses will be conducted by regional experts and count toward certification from the Maine Landscape and Nursery Association and the Maine Board of Pesticides Control.

[Visit their website for more information.](#)



Road Salt Threatens U.S. Waters

Researchers site mounting evidence that the tons of salt put onto roadways in the winter are increasing the salinity of hundreds of lakes, rivers, and streams, particularly in the Northeast and Midwest.

[Read the article in Outdoor News.](#)



Researches Test the Effectiveness of Rain Garden Network in Ohio

Over a four-year period, a research team monitored stormwater runoff moving through a rain garden network to determine effectiveness of this stormwater control measure. The study identifies factors that might guide improvements to new or existing rain water designs.

[Read the paper in MDPI.](#)



Metal Guards around NYC Trees Reduce Stormwater Pollution

Researchers at Columbia University found that street trees protected by guards (metal fencing) that stopped passersby from trampling surround soil absorbed stormwater more quickly than trees in unprotected pits.

[Read more in Science Daily.](#)



New Species of Temperate Conifer Tree Discovered

The Ulleungdo hemlock, found on a small Korean island, is likely already endangered, but it may hold the key to fighting invasive species.

[Read the article in National Geographic.](#)



Opportunities to Present

Water Efficient Landscaping

Utah State University's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping (CWEL) seeks presenters for its 2018 webinar series. On the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm MST presenters share their experience with and expertise in outdoor water conservation.

[Click for more information.](#)

Volunteer to Review Grant Applications

Help Grassroots Fund determine recipients of grants aimed at empowering youth-led initiatives that allow young adults to design, lead, and engage in community-based efforts.

[Learn more.](#)

Grants!

CSX Community Investment

CSX provides assistance and support to non-profits in communities that are part of their network. Focus areas are Safety, Community, Environment, and Wellness. Find details through the CSX [Giving Gateway](#). Online applications are available January 1 - December 15 each year; no deadlines apply.

Grassroots Fund for Young Adults

Grants available to youth groups pursuing innovative and transformative projects at the intersections of climate change, health, and equity. Deadline for Letter of Interest: March 12, 2018. [Find out more.](#)

Member Profiles

Planters' Choice

We are a full-service wholesale nursery in Fairfield and Litchfield counties providing a complete line of ornamental plant material to the trade. With field and container production on separate farms in Connecticut, we sell a complete line of nursery stock including an extensive selection of landscape quality native plants at exceptional prices.

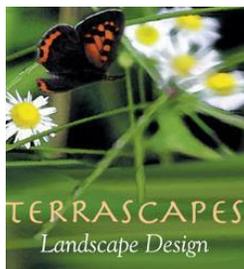


BlueFlax Design LLC

BlueFlax Design is a design-build company focused on whole-systems thinking and restoration of coastal and wetland resource areas throughout eastern Massachusetts and New England. Founded on the synthesis of sound science and fine art of design, they provide trusted expertise in consulting, project permitting, restoration/mitigation design, residential landscape design, and project implementation.

North Creek Nurseries

North Creek Nurseries is a wholesale propagation nursery providing starter plugs to the horticultural and landscape market. We offer a full range of horticultural and Landscape Plug™ sizes to help growers succeed and ecological designs thrive. We specialize in perennials, ornamental grasses, & ferns with an emphasis on Eastern US natives.



Terrascapes

Terrascapes is a full-service landscape design and build firm creating gardens inspired by natural beauty. Our goal is to design landscapes that reflect unique lifestyles and balance busy schedules with outdoor enjoyment. Using the elements of design with plants, stone, water, and light, we fashion places to enjoy, incorporating sustainable garden philosophies for residential clients in Boston and surrounding areas.

SWCA

Founded in 1981, SWCA is an employee-owned environmental consulting firm with 30 offices throughout the U.S. and Pacific Islands. We provide a diverse range of services including landscape architecture, restoration, installation, planning, permitting, regulatory compliance, natural and cultural resource management, air quality, and water resources consulting to clients nationwide.



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

- February 16 - Learn about Grafting and Propagating with Jon Cerqueira and Dan Demers; 140 Huntington Rd, Newtown, CT; 10:00am-12:00pm. RSVP: 203-426-4037 or dgindek@planterschoice.com.
- February 16 - [Healthy Landscape Principles and Practices: Pesticide-free Strategies for the Landscape Professional](#); Oregon City, OR; 9:00am-5:00pm.
- February 17 - [What Plants Where? Designing with Native Plants](#); Hitchcock Center, Amherst, MA; 9:30am-12:30pm.
- February 21 - [Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Hadley, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.
- February 21-22 - [Urban Green Infrastructure Summit](#); Tigard, OR.
- February 22 - [Websites 101: Designing & Maintaining a Website for your Business](#); Lenox, MA; 5:30-8:30pm.
- February 23 - [Conway School Student Project Presentations](#); Easthampton, MA; 9:00am-5:00pm.
- February 24 **ELA Class**→[Native Plants for Urban Design](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00-11:00am.
- February 27-28 - [Green Industry Winter Forum & Job Fair](#); Sturbridge, MA.
- February 28 - [The Guiteras Green Infrastructure Community School Project](#) (webinar); 2:00-3:30pm EST.
- February 28 - [How Forests Will Define the Future of Our Climate](#); Northampton, MA; 7:00-9:00pm.
- March 2-3 - [Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium](#); Ithaca, NY.
- March 3 - [Creating a Resilient Garden](#); Kingston, RI; 8:30am-4:00pm.
- March 3 - [Edible Landscaping with Fruit](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.
- March 3 - [Local Environmental Action Conference](#); Boston, MA; 9:00am-5:30pm.
- March 4 - [Healthy Soils, Healthy Plants, Healthy People](#), NOFA RI Winter Conference; Warren, RI; 8:30am-4:30pm.
- March 6 - [Community Tree Conference: Ecological Perspectives of the Urban Forest](#); Amherst, MA; 8:45am-3:30pm.
- March 7&8 **ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace**→[Sustaining the Living Landscape](#); Amherst, MA.
- March 7 - [Lessons Learned when Field Botany Meets Design](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
- March 8 - [RI Compost Conference & Trade Show](#); Providence, RI; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- March 9 - [Irrigation and Water Management Systems Seminar](#); Boothbay, ME; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- March 9 **ELA Class**→[Meadows 1-2-3](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.
- March 10 **ELA Class**→[Native Plants for Landscape Design](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00-11:00am.
- March 10 - [Land & Water Conservation Summit](#); Kingston, RI; 7:45am-4:00pm.
- March 13 - [Water Well with CWEL](#) (webinar); 2:00MST. Check website for topic and presenter.
- March 13 - [MA State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management](#); Hadley, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- March 14-15 - [Northeast Hardscape Expo](#); Providence, RI.
- March 16-17 - [Healthy Forests, Healthy Habitats](#), SWCS SNEC Winter Conference; Sturbridge, MA; 8:00am-5:00pm.
- March 16 - [Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference](#); Boston, MA.

March 17 - [Welcome Spring Symposium](#); Hooksett, NH; 8:30am-3:45pm.
March 19 **ELA Webinar**→[Developing a Comprehensive Integrative Pest Management \(IPM\) Plan](#); 12:30-1:30pm EST.
March 19-20 - [International IPM Symposium](#); Baltimore, MD. (Early bird pricing before February 19)
March 21 **ELA Webinar**→[Invasive Plants: What Are They? And What Can Be Done?](#) 7:00-8:00pm EST.
March 22 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#); Hadley, MA; 9:00am-2:00pm.
March 22 **ELA Class**→[Weeds](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-12:00pm EST.
March 24 - [2018 MA Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
March 24 - [Home Orchard Pruning](#) (hands on); Great Barrington, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.
March 27 **ELA Class**→[Plants for Pollinators](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.
March 29 - [Spring Kickoff for Landscapers](#); Wareham, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.
March 29 - [Designing Livable Spaces in China's Cities, Jenny Tang](#) (Zube Lecture Series free to ELA members); Amherst, MA; 4:00-5:00pm.
March 31 - [Pruning Blueberries](#); (hands on); Bolton, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.



Bunchberry *Cornus canadensis*

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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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