

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

April 2018



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

From the Editor

The snow has finally receded from my home gardens, and I find myself looking under leaf litter for signs of the native plants I tucked into beds last year. I can't help capturing the new plants in a photo, reassuring myself that spring really has arrived. As you snap your own native plant and native plant garden photos this spring, send one or more to our [Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest](#). You could win a free year of ELA membership in addition to sharing the beauty of native plants.



In this issue of the newsletter, our members chime in with their experiences using compost, and we look at the maintenance practices at Chanticleer (starting with the soil) that result in beautiful, ecological lawns. We also offer a review summary of one session from the ELA Conference last month and the related details on soil amendments. Get ready to dig in. *MPS*



Maximizing Soil Health with Compost

Contributors: Willow Cheeley, Shawn Mayers, Peter Sholtzberger, Tom Sullivan, Edwina von Gal

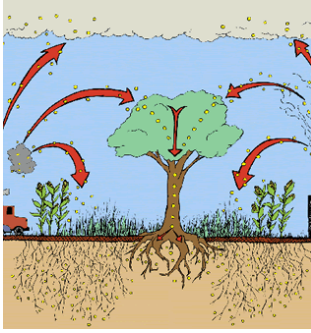
From improved soil structure and moisture holding capacity to soil microbes support and improved cation exchange capacity, the benefits of compost in soil management is well documented. ELA invited a few members to talk about the compost they use, how they are utilizing that resource, and their compost sources. Our contributors also offer their soil management tips. [Read the article.](#)



The Art of the Lawn at Chanticleer

by Scott Steinfeldt

At Chanticleer, a public garden in Wayne, Pennsylvania, the lawns serve multiple functions: as surfaces for walks and picnics, as connections between public areas, and as a filtration system. Learn about the practices and techniques they employ to maintain resilient and beautiful lawns. [Read the article.](#)



Maintaining and Increasing Carbon in the Managed Landscape

Conference Session Summary by Alexis Doshas

Garden designs that fulfill a client's desires and support and maintain optimal soil health can also improve carbon sequestration and storage. In her session at the ELA Conference on March 7, M.L. Altobelli shared her experiences developing gardens that are beautiful, healthy, and support carbon storage. [Read the article.](#)



Practical Tips for Fertilizers and Amendments

Feeding the Soil While Stabilizing and Sequestering Carbon

by M.L. Altobelli

In her search for practical strategies that develop healthy soils, the author has developed a list of soil amendment ingredients and "recipes" for use throughout the growing season. Her results? Spectacular! [Read the article.](#)

ELA News

Share Your Passion for Native Plants!

Include Your Garden on the Celebrate Native Plants Tour!

Sign up to showcase your native plant garden on ELA's **Second Annual Celebrating Native Plants Garden Tour**. Whether it's a garden you've nurtured and maintained over decades or just installed, share your inspiration with other native plant enthusiasts and those hoping to learn more.



On **Saturday afternoon June 23**, registered guests will visit gardens around New England to share, discuss, and discover the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants. Take advantage of this opportunity to inspire greater use of native plants.

[Learn more here and add your garden to the growing list.](#)



Enter the Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest

Calling all native plant enthusiasts...wherever you live! Whether you're in New England or the Southwest, we want you to share the beauty of native plants. Send us your most inspiring photographs of individual native plants or of native plants in the garden setting. You'll be entered to win a one-year ELA membership. [Details here.](#)

Volunteer's Virtual Coffee

Join other ELA Volunteers for the next **Volunteer's Virtual Coffee** on April 18 at 9:30am EDT. Take 30 minutes or less to share your expertise and inspire new and ongoing ELA programs.

This month's topic is **New Approaches in Horticulture**. Ponder the topic and then grab your mug of coffee or tea, cocoa or kale juice and make the call.



Volunteer Virtual Coffee calls are held monthly from October through April.

Gleanings

Bees, Lawns, and Mowing

According to a new study from urban ecologists at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, lawn mowing habits can boost bee habitat. Lawns are such widespread greenspaces that adjusting to an every-other-week mowing schedule potentially offers huge benefits to pollinators. [Read more in Mother Nature Network](#). [Read the study](#).



Good News about Winter Moth & Gypsy Moth

Winter moth populations are at a record low in Massachusetts and Rhode Island reports far fewer egg masses at monitored sites. Also, the wet spring of 2017 resulted in a reduction of the gypsy moth population by *Entomophaga maimaiga* fungus. [Read more](#).



City Nature Challenge

Over 60 cities worldwide will compete to make the most observations of nature, to find the most species, and to engage the most people during the 2018 City Nature Challenge. In this bioblitz-style competition, participants use iNaturalist to record, share, and get feedback on their observations. Take pictures April 27-30 and identify your finds May 1-3. Look for local events in participating cities. [Find out more](#).



Living Architecture Performance Tool Enters Pilot Phase

Version 1 of the Living Architecture Performance Tool (LAPT) was recently released and pilot projects are being sought. The LAPT is a rating system and a resource used to certify that living architecture, including green roofs, living walls, and green facades, meet measurable and replicable performance benefits. [Find out more](#).



When Twenty-Six Thousand Stinkbugs Invade Your Home

The extremely versatile brown marmorated stinkbug, a hitchhiker from East Asia, both invades homes and destroys agricultural crops. Can this insect be controlled? [Read the New Yorker article](#).



Tap Into Volunteers

Nature Groupie provides a platform for groups in the New England region to connect with volunteers for outdoor projects ranging from cleanups and invasive plant removal to fish counting and tree planting. Volunteers receive notifications of local events; partners recruit volunteers, plus have access to free training guides, tools, and expert advice. [Find out more](#).



Green Makeover: Philadelphia Tackles Its Stormwater Problem

In a major initiative, Philadelphia is building an extensive network of rain gardens, green roofs, wetlands, and other infrastructure to capture stormwater. The goal is to prevent runoff from overwhelming sewers and polluting waterways and to help green America's fifth-largest city. [Read the article in Yale environment360](#).



Helia Native Nursery Hosts Summer Programs

The nursery is offering three workshops this summer: Native Plant Propagation in May; Attracting Butterflies & Pollinators in July; and Building Meadows & Seedbanks in September. [Find out more](#).



MA Landscape & Nursery Survey

UMass Extension seeks participation in their 2018 Massachusetts Landscape and Nursery Industry Survey. The survey will gather information on the issues most important to landscape and nursery industries in Massachusetts and will be used to develop research, create programming, and provide an overview of the state of the industry. [Take the survey](#).



Opportunities to Present

Storm Water Solutions Conference & Exhibition 2018

Submission deadline is April 30 for presentations at the SWS Conference to be held November 13-15 in Chicago, IL. [More information](#). [Submittal Form](#).



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[Become a Member!](#)



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Octoraro Native Plant Nursery is a whole grower of container-grown mid-Atlantic and Eastern regional native trees and shrubs. We are a distributor of Tubex tree shelters and other forestry products to protect your plantings from predation. Growing sustainable landscapes since 1990.

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

- April 20 - Changing the Climate: How Public Health, Cities, and the Media Can Advance Climate Solutions; Boston, MA; 8:30am-2:30pm.
- April 20 - Beyond the Grassroots: Participatory Ecology and Political Praxis; Haverford, PA; 9:00am-5:30pm.
- April 20-21 - Great Gardens and Landscaping Symposium; Woodstock, VT.
- April 22 - Earth Day 2018. Visit www.earthday.org to get involved.
- April 25 - Building and Maintaining a Rain Garden 101; Hudson, MA; 6:30-8:00pm.
- April 25 - Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar Series: Getting Ready for Rain! Integrating Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions into State and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans 1:00pm-2:30pm.
- April 30 - Speaking for Our Trees; Wellesley, MA; 7:00pm.
- April 30-May 2 - Local Solutions: Eastern Climate Preparedness Conference; Manchester, NH.
- May 2 - Evoking Nature: Form and Function on the High Line; Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
- May 8 - Landscaping with Native Plants for the Birds, Bees, & Water; Natick, MA; 6:00-7:30pm.
- May 11 - Bring Back the Pollinators; Rancho Cordova, CA; 9:30am-4:00pm.
- May 16 - Landscape Pests and Problems Walkabout: Diseases and Weeds; Westfield, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
- May 18 - Designing with Water in Mind; Boothbay, ME; 1:00-4:00pm.
- May 19 - Grow Native Plant Sale; UMass Waltham Field Station, Waltham, MA; 9:00am - 2:30pm.
- May 26 - Native Plant Propagation; Alford, MA 10:30am-12:00pm.
- June 5 - **ELA Eco-tour**→Ferns and Native Beauty at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary; Wales, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.
- June 6 - Landscape Pests and Problems Walkabout: Insects and Cultural Problems; Sandwich, MA; 5:00-7:00pm.
- June 10 **ELA Eco-tour**→Beneficial Bugs at Nasami Farm; Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.
- June 10 **ELA Class**→Rain Garden Fundamentals; Framingham, MA; 1:30-3:00pm.
- June 12 Protecting Biodiversity in a Changing Climate; Grafton, MA; 9:30am-4:00pm.
- June 14 **ELA Eco-tour**→Harvard Forest - Reflecting on the Past, Researching the Future; Petersham, MA; 10:00am-12:30pm.

June 16 - [Common Gardening Misconceptions and the Reality Behind Them](#); Boothbay, ME; 9:30am-12:30pm.
June 22 - [Gardens for the Senses: An Intimate Garden Conversation with Tim Smit](#); Boothbay, ME; 12:00-3:00pm.
June 23 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Celebrating Natives - Garden Tours](#); various sites; 12:00-4:00pm.
July 7 - [Attracting Butterflies & Pollinators](#); Alford, MA; 10:30am-12:00pm.
July 10-12 - [One Water Summit 2018](#); Minneapolis, MN (early bird ends April 15).
July 11 - [Slow Flowers](#); Boothbay, ME; 1:00-5:00pm.
July 12 **ELA Eco-tour**→[A Step Back in Time - The Gardens at Naumkeag](#); Stockbridge, MA; 10:00am-12:30pm.
July 24 **ELA Summer Workshop**→**Save the Date**; Framingham, MA; 1:00pm-5:00pm.
August 7 **ELA Class**→[Native Plants for Professionals](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:30pm.
August 11 **Film Screening**→[Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf](#); Boylston, MA; 2:00-4:00pm.
August 28 **ELA Class**→[Native Woody Plant Materials](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:00pm.



**Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Director of Horticulture
Boylston, MA**

The Director of Horticulture is responsible for:

- Managing all living collections, gardens, conservatories, growing spaces, woodlands and landscapes, and equipment.
 - Managing garden infrastructure in coordination with the Facilities Manager.
 - Serve as part of the leadership team for Winter Reimagined, the Society's winter light show.
- Supervising a department of 8 paid horticulture staff, seasonal interns, a part time administrative assistant, and Garden volunteers.
 - Training and development of the Horticulture staff.
 - Coordinating outsourced services related to horticulture.
 - Determining annual budget needs, authorizing budget expenditures and managing the approved operating budget for the Horticulture Department.
 - Coordinating the Spring Plant Sale.
 - Integrating operations of Horticulture Department into the mission and goals of the Garden as a whole. Read more and apply at www.towerhillbg.org
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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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