

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

March 2018



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

From the Editor

Despite back to back Nor'easters, the 2018 ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace went off as planned, with a few accommodations for the weather. ELA offers a warm thank you to the speakers, exhibitors, and attendees who disregarded dire forecasts and braved the elements to attend two exceptional days of education and networking. Kudos to those who volunteered their time developing a superlative event. Mark your calendar for next year's conference: March 6 & 7.

As we move into spring in the northern hemisphere, we start getting ready for the busy season ahead. This month's newsletter looks at the many ways our members prepare for the upcoming season. From equipment maintenance to downloading apps and upgrading websites, our members are getting the tools of their trade ready to go. Also, we get a couple of perspectives on ways to maintain our most important equipment: our own bodies. Enjoy the newsletter and have a great start to the season ahead. *MPS*



Jump-starting the Season

**Contributors: Jonathan Bransfield, John Hemmerle,
Brooke Merriam, Zachary Navarro, and Lori Silvia**

What are you doing to prepare for the season that's just taking off? ELA asked a few members to share their tips for getting off to a good start. [Read the article.](#)



Ergonomics: What's the Right Tool for You?

by Liz Brensinger

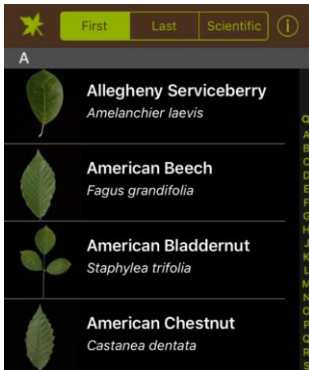
Finding a comfortable tool that fits both you and your work style can be a challenge. By definition, ergonomic tools are designed for comfort, efficiency, safety, and ease. Learn more about tailoring tools to your body and needs. [Read the article.](#)



Sharpest Tool in the Shed

by Trevor Smith

Many people continue to work with a variety of aches and pains; however, not all jobs take the physical toll that can come from working in the landscape. When chronic pain threatens to derail his health and his business just as the 2017 season begins, one ELA member turns his health challenge into an opportunity to learn more about how to support his own good health. [Read the article.](#)



Mobile Apps for Outdoor Work

by Rie Macchiarolo

Technological advances over the last ten years have given us a wealth of resources and boundless information all at our fingertips. Which applications for mobile devices are likely to be the most useful in the field? [Read the article.](#)



Book Review: Whitewash

The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science

Written by Carey Gillam

Published by Island Press, October 2017

Reviewed by Kerry O'Kelly

Glyphosate, the popular weed killer, is increasingly found in our water, air, soil, and bodies. Touted as a safe chemical to use in a multitude of applications, is there more to the story? Though not for the beginner, this book provides a detailed examination how industry has controlled the narrative on the safety of glyphosate, the most commonly used agrochemical in the world. [Read the review.](#)

Calling All Native Plant Enthusiasts!

Share 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. 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.

Last year, a dozen designers and homeowners welcomed visitors into their yards for a day of education and celebration of native plants. Inquiring visitors were anxious to see native plants at work in the garden and learn more about them. Garden hosts offered guidance and shared their expertise. 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. Share your photographs in ELA's [Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest](#).



Enjoy Your Morning Coffee...While You Volunteer!

Join other ELA Volunteers for the second **Volunteer's Virtual Coffee** on March 21 at 9:30am. Take 30 minutes to share your views and expertise to inspire new and ongoing ELA programs.

This month's topic sustainable landscape examples for future ELA Eco-tours.

To participate send an email to ela.info@comcast.net. You'll receive an email with the call in number.

Then what? Give the topic some thought and at the appointed time, grab your mug of coffee or tea, cocoa or kale juice and make the call.

Take 30 minutes to volunteer with ELA. We want to hear YOUR ideas!



Conference Thank You's

Thank you to 2018 Conference Sponsors! [Planters' Choice](#) and [The Conway School](#)

A special thanks to ELA's hard-working Conference Committee.

Bob Walsh	Kathy Sargent-O'Neill	Dan Jaffe
Angela Tanner	Tara Mitchell	Mark Highland
Maureen Sundberg	Rie Macchiarolo	Willow Cheeley
Trevor Smith	Penny Lewis	Jack Ahern

The committee starts work on the 2019 Conference in two weeks. If you have ideas for a conference topic or speaker, the committee welcomes your input. Submit suggestions to ela.info@comcast.net, Subject: Conference 2019.

Plant ID. Did You Accept the Challenge?

The 2018 Plant ID Quiz was another doozy. ELA Conference attendees tested their knowledge of winter plant identification with the extremely challenging plant quiz curated by staff members at the New England Wild Flower Society. On Wednesday Katherine Bronson was the winner; and Rod Payne-Meyer submitted the most correct answers on Thursday. Both win a free one-year ELA Professional Membership. Congratulations to our winners! [Check your answers here.](#)

If you haven't joined Amazon Smile, now is the time!!

Between now and March 31, Amazon customers making their first eligible purchase through smile.amazon.com will earn a triple donation for ELA. [Learn more.](#)



Gleanings

Drugs from Dirt

After collecting and sequence genes from over 2,000 soil samples, a team of scientists at Rockefeller University recently announced the discovery of a new class of powerful antibiotics. [Read more.](#)



Landscaped Bulb-Outs Capture Street Run-off

In Marina Del Rey, CA, a recently completed green street project, incorporates numerous components, including bulb-outs, to capture and infiltrate runoff from city streets. [Read more.](#)



Making a Case for Trees

A new website, TreesAndStormwater.org helps decision makers learn about and make the case for using trees in stormwater management. [Read more.](#)



Nature Conservancy Releases Nature-based Procurement Guide

The Nature Conservancy recently released a new *Procurement Guide to Nature-Based Solutions* aimed at helping community leaders understand how to draft RFPs that allow identification and use of nature-based approaches, especially for flood and stormwater management. [Read more.](#) [Read the Guide.](#)



Buzzing on Top: Linking wild bee diversity, abundance and traits with green roof qualities

Green roofs offer potentially valuable habitat in urban areas. A study completed at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences on green roofs in Vienna investigated the effects of green roof qualities on wild bee diversity, abundance, and traits. [Read more.](#)



Northeast IPM Center Receives Funding for Invasive Species Work

With support from regional educational institutions and non-profit organizations, including ELA, [Northeast IPM Center](#) recently received funding for research and communication for invasive species and climate change. Over the next two years, the Center will be working to identify and prioritize range-shifting invasive plants moving into New York and New England.



COGdesign Seeks Project "Shepherds"

With upcoming Design Reviews scheduled for March 19 and April 11, 6:00-8:30pm, designers interested in learning more about COG's process and projects are invited to drop in. For the address and to RSVP, email info@cogdesign.org.



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.

Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.

[Become a Member!](#)



[Organic Mechanic Soils](#) is a wholesale manufacturer of premium, organic, peat-free potting soil, soil amendments, biochar-enhanced soils, fertilizers, stormwater soils, including soils for rain gardens, bioswales, and more. Our philosophy embraces environmental sustainability as a core value. We are pursuing the dream of producing the most environmentally friendly, highest quality soils on the market.



[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.



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Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation Boston, MA

Southwest Boston CDC Green Team Summer Crew Leader: June 25 - August 24, 2018. 30 hours per week, \$18/hr. Work alongside/supervise youth ages 15-18 to restore Hyde Park's urban wilds. Prune/plant trees and shrubs, build trails, educate the community. Assist with job readiness training and environmental education. Must have youth experience and interest in gardening/woodland restoration. Full job description at www.swbcdc.org. Contact Pat Alvarez, palvarez@swbcdc.org;

617-364-7300.

Perfect Earth (PRFCT) Project Director of Education East Hampton, NY

The Director of Education will work directly with the President/Founder and Environmental Outreach Coordinator to advance the PRFCT mission and projects. The office is located on an idyllic 5-acre waterfront property that provides a living classroom for toxin-free land management. The Director of Education will guide PRFCT in promoting accessible learning educational programs for homeowners, students and professionals to become skilled and knowledgeable in toxic-free (organic) land care; to promote careers in toxic-free land management, and to promote a worldwide community of responsible land stewardship. Visit <https://perfectearthproject.org/about/jobs> for more information.

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

March 16-17 - [Healthy Forests, Healthy Habitats](#), SWCS SNEC Winter Conference; Sturbridge, MA; 8:00am-5:00pm.

March 16-17 - [Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference](#); Boston, MA.

March 17 - [Welcome Spring Symposium](#); Hooksett, NH; 8:30am-3:45pm.

March 18 - [The Pollinator Friendly Landscape: Beyond Plant Selection](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00pm.

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 - [5th Annual Humanities Institute Symposium: Plant Intelligence](#); Bronx, NY; 10:00am-12:30pm.

March 22 **ELA Class**→[Weeds](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-12:00pm EST.

March 22 - [Sustainable Urban Landscape Symposium](#); Cincinnati, OH; 9:00am-5:00pm.
March 24 - [Earth Hour](#); 8:30-9:30 local time.
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 24 - [Bees, Trees, and Clean Water Workshop](#); Monroe, VA; 8:30am-3:30pm.
March 28 - [BSLA Landscape Architecture Conference](#); Boston, MA; 7:30am-5:00pm.
March 27 **ELA Class**→[Plants for Pollinators](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.
March 28 - [Stormwater Standards for the Future](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:00pm.
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.
April 2-20 - [Training, Facilitation, and Consulting Certificate](#); Chesterfield, NH.
April 4 - [Revealing a Sense of Place](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
April 4 - [Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program](#); Hadley, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.
April 5 **ELA Class**→[Sustainable Design Basics](#); Framingham, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.
April 6 - [Professional Horticulture Series: Native Plant Performers: Significant & Beautiful Alternatives](#); Boothbay, ME; 9:00am-3:00pm.
April 7 - [Home Orchard Establishment & Basics](#) (hands on); Great Barrington, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.
April 7 - [Home Orchard Pest Management](#) (hands on); 1:00-3:00pm.
April 8 - [Grow Your Own Meadow, Large or Small](#); Brewster, MA; 1:00-2:00pm.
April 10 - [Water Well with CWEL](#) (webinar); 2:00MST. Check website for topic and presenter.
April 11 - [Creating an Edible Residential Landscape](#); Sturbridge, MA; 9:00am-3:15pm.
April 12 - [Freehand Visions: The Role of Sketching in a Digital Age, James Richards](#) (Zube Lecture Series free to ELA members); Amherst, MA; 4:00-5:00pm.
April 14 - [Native Pollinator Biology and Conservation](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.
April 21 - [Great Gardens and Landscaping Symposium](#); Woodstock, VT.
April 22 - Earth Day 2018. Visit www.earthday.org to get involved.
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 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.

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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](#)

