

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

## July



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

### From the Editor

Summer is heating up across the country and many of us are keeping an eye on the weather forecasts, checking for rain before reluctantly irrigating. Articles in this month's newsletter look at a variety of drought management strategies, including plant selection and covering the open ground with leaf mold or plants. If things get too warm, escape the heat on the afternoon of July 24 and attend ELA's 2018 Summer Workshop: [Novel Approaches to Sustainable Horticulture](#). Seating is limited. Or, on August 11, join us at Tower Hill Botanic Garden for a screening of [Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf](#). This documentary by award-winning filmmaker Thomas Piper will immerse you in the Oudolf's work and vision. Take time for a little summer inspiration. *MPS*



### Drought Tolerant? Think Native!

by Carol E. Becker

Though the upper Midwest generally sees adequate seasonal rain, July and August turn hot and dry. Designing with native forbs is the best strategy for creating gardens that can withstand midsummer drought. [Read the article.](#)



### Drought Tolerant Container Gardens, Beyond the Traditional

by Irene Brady Barber

When people think of plants that are suitable for drought tolerant container gardens, succulents most often come to mind. But native plants offer visually appealing alternatives that can handle tough conditions and also attract pollinators, birds, and beneficial insects. [Read the article.](#)

Irene's planters will be on display at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens during [Planting for Pollinators - Appropriate and Aesthetic Solutions](#) on September 28.



## The Perennial Borders

by Marietta and Ernie O'Byrne

In this excerpt from their newly released book *A Tapestry Garden*, the O'Byrnes describe perennial borders they designed to remain full and beautiful year round while requiring minimum maintenance.

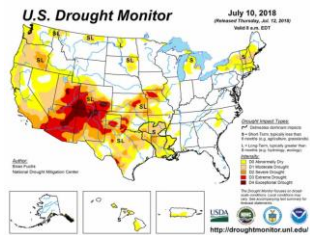
[Read the article.](#)



## Top Ten Ways to Screw Up an Installed Meadow

by Nick Novick

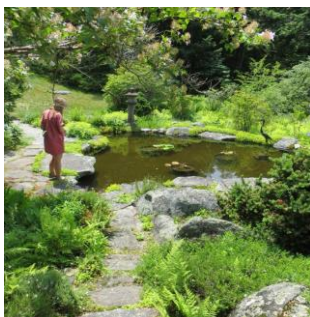
Given the many unavoidable problems that can arise with a meadow project, you want to keep avoidable mistakes to a minimum. Here are ten missteps to avoid when starting a native grass and forb meadow from seed. [Read the article.](#)



## Facing Drought? Rip Up Your Lawn!

by Jessa Kay Cruz

What to do when severe drought turns your lawn into an ugly patch of dead grass? Save the irrigation water and turn the space into pollinator habitat. [Read the article.](#)



## Eco-Answers from the Pros

ELA members have spent hundreds of hours learning the best ecological solutions to problems in the landscape. You can benefit from all that accumulated knowledge by posing a question to our experts. If you are stumped by a problem in your landscape or are looking for a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's Eco-Pros. Send your question to [ela\\_new@verizon.net](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net). And if you need additional help, refer to the listing of ELA Professionals.

### Mulched Leaves and Drought

I have heard that using chopped or composted leaves is good for the soil and can be better at holding moisture in a garden during dry periods. Can you provide guidance on using this mulching technique to mitigate the effects of drought and also provide information about how effective it is? [Read the Pro's Answer.](#)

### Controlling Duckweed

Does anyone have a suggestion about controlling floating weeds in my pond (duckweed, etc.)? The problem seems to be excessive nitrates. I have tried mechanical harvesting (weeds return rapidly), and am unwilling to use herbicides as suggested by my local DEP. Is Barley straw only applicable for algae control? [Read the Pro's Answer.](#)

---

## ELA News

### Thank you to Our Celebrate Native Plants Hosts!

We appreciate the participation of homeowners and landscape professionals who shared their landscapes and their expertise with native plants during ELA's 2nd Celebrating Native Gardens Tours. It was inspirational to see creative work utilizing beautiful native plants and the tours were greatly appreciated by tour guests.

The feedback from hosts and participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many comments about the "gorgeously wild" and "healthily diverse" landscapes and the knowledgeable designers who generously shared their expertise at many of the tour locations. We look forward to visiting new gardens in 2019.



### Boston Globe Subscribers

If you haven't already committed your Globe Grant Dollars, please support the Ecological Landscape Alliance. If you can't find your voucher, go to the [Grant Voucher](#) page on the Globe's website for instructions. Please make us your choice **before July 31**. Thank you!



---

## Gleanings

### Walk on the Grassy Side

Research shows that time spent in nature is therapeutic. Now, evidence points to the benefits of "grounding" - walking barefoot with your feet directly in contact with the earth as a way to improve your health. [Read the article in The Washington Post.](#)



### Plants and Pollinators Out of Sync

An unusually hot spring has thrown plants and pollinators out of sync in Europe. Butterflies hatched early with the heat, but their host plants had not yet bloomed. Other native pollinators are also under pressure. [Read more in InsideClimate news.](#)



### Gypsy Moth Update

In Massachusetts, gypsy moth caterpillars have pupated, having completed their feeding for the 2018 season. To read the update from UMass Amherst, [click here](#) and follow the link to Insects.



### Firefly Watch

As you enjoy a lazy summer evening on the porch, you can also contribute to scientific research! Since 2008, citizen scientists have been recording their observations of fireflies in backyards, local parks, and open spaces of all types. [Find more information.](#)



### Beavers Are the Ultimate Ecosystem Engineers

Where the aquatic rodents have rebounded, they are reshaping watersheds for the better. [Read more in Sierra.](#)



### **Subsurface Irrigation for Turfgrass Water Conservation**

Dr. Bernd Leinauer, New Mexico State University, dives into the world of subsurface drip irrigation in this free webinar through the Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping. [View the archived webinar.](#)



### **Irrigation and Water Conservation Series**

Dr. Scott Ebdon, explains the fine point of estimating turf irrigation needs using meteorological data as determined by many years of collaborative research at the University of Massachusetts. Recently released titles in the Irrigation and Water Conservation series also address best management and water conserving irrigation practices that produce a more drought hardy and higher quality turf. [Read the fact sheets.](#)



### **Rocky & Rocketta's Dragin Progressive Farm Tour**

A series of upcoming farm tours in Worcester County will feature producers of organic and fresh foods. ELA founding member M.L. Altobelli and her Woody End Farm will be on the tour. [Read more in The Gardner News.](#)



### **Evening Daylily Walks**

Tranquil Lake Nursery, Rehoboth, MA is hosting garden and field tours on Friday evenings during July, beginning at 6:30pm. View the gardens and discover spectacular planting combinations. [Find out more.](#)



### **Homeowner Yard Care Advice for Hot Summer Days**

Some Easy Ways to Cut Down on Lawn Fertilizing in [ecoRI News](#).  
Garden and Landscaping Water Conservation Tips from [Massachusetts Water Resources Authority](#).  
Mulch Makes Life Tougher for Pollinators in [ecoRI News](#).



### **Opportunities to Present**

#### **Southeast New York Stormwater Conference**

Proposals for presentations related to stormwater management are sought for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Southeast New York Stormwater Conference to be held October 17, 2018 in Beacon, NY. The conference provides an opportunity for municipal workers and stormwater professionals to learn about stormwater management and related subjects from experts working in southeast NY and beyond. Find the topics and guidelines for submission [here](#).



### **Grants**

#### **Green Stormwater Infrastructure Grant**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is offering grants to communities across the country in support of green stormwater infrastructure projects in parks. Up to \$2 million will be made available for projects that effect environmental and social change in underserved communities and empower residents to actively engage in projects that address their community needs and meet local stormwater management goals. Applications must be submitted online before midnight on Friday, August 3, 2018. [Learn more at nrpa.org.](#)

#### **Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. EPA and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is soliciting proposals to restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. More information and a downloadable RFP are available at [www.nfwf.org/chesapeake](http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake). For more

information or questions, email Jake Reilly ([jake.reilly@nfwf.org](mailto:jake.reilly@nfwf.org)) or Claire Flynn ([claire.flynn@nfwf.org](mailto:claire.flynn@nfwf.org)) or phone either at 202-857-0166. Pre-Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Full Proposal Deadline: November 13, 2018.



Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.  
[Become a Member!](#)



Bunchberry *Cornus canadensis*

## Planters' Choice Nurseries

*New England's premier grower and re-wholesaler of quality nursery stock including a full line of native trees, shrubs and perennials*

Newtown, CT    Watertown, CT  
203-426-4037

[Planterschoice.com](http://Planterschoice.com)



[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.

**Biological Practices**  
IPM Program

**Ethical Principles**  
Neonicotinoid & Peat Free

**SITES™ Compliant**  
Resilient Landscapes

**North Creek Nurseries**  
Landscape Plug  
LEARN MORE

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

July 18 - [Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms of New England with Russ Cohen](#); Bristol, RI; 6:00-8:00pm.

July 18 - [Green Industry Intern Field Day](#); Bronx, NY; 11:00am-8:00pm.

July 18-21 - [35th Annual Cullowhee Native Plant Conference](#); Cullowhee, NC.

July 21 - [Housatonic River Cleanup](#); Wahconah Park, Pittsfield, MA; meet at 9:00am; work

until 1:00pm.

July 21 - [Perennials for Four Seasons: Summer Showstoppers](#); Boothbay, ME; 1:00-4:00pm.

July 22 - [Creating and Implementing a Comprehensive IPM Plan](#); Nasami Farm, Whatley, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

July 24 **ELA Summer Workshop**→[Novel Approaches to Sustainable Horticulture](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00pm-5:00pm.

July 24 - [Organic Weed Management](#); North Easton, MA; 4:00-7:00pm.

July 25 - CNLA 2018 Summer Field Day ([Information](#) - [Registration](#)); Hamden, CT; 8:30am-3:30pm.

July 27 - The 5th Annual Moth Ball [Reservations](#); Plymouth, MA; 7:00-11:00pm.

## August

August 1 - [Meadows and Grasslands for Butterflies and Other Winged Companions](#); Boothbay, ME; 1:00-4:30pm.

August 3 - [First Annual New York City EcoFlora Conference](#); Bronx, NY; 10:00am-1:00pm.

August 7 **ELA Class**→[Native Plants for Professionals](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-2:30pm.

August 9 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Randall's Island Meadows NYC](#); New York, NY; 10:00am-12:00pm.

August 9 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Randall's Island Meadows NYC](#); New York, NY; 6:00pm-8:00pm.

August 9 - [Landscape and Forest Tree and Shrub Insect Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

August 9 - [Getting to Know Our Native Plants: Beauty and Bounty in the Lazy Days of Summer](#); metro-Boston; 5:30-7:45pm

August 10-12 - [NOFA RI Summer Conference](#); Hampshire College, Amherst, MA.

August 11 **Film Screening**→[Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf](#); Boylston, MA; 2:00-4:00pm.

August 11 - [What Is Horticultural Therapy](#); Boothbay, ME; 12:30-3:30pm.

August 12-14 - [International Low Impact Development Conference](#); Nashville, TN.

August 22 - [The Beauty within Biodiversity](#); Boothbay, ME; 2:00-4:00pm.

August 22 - [What Do Bees Need? Planting for Pollinators](#); Ridgefield, CT; 7:00-8:30pm.

August 28 **ELA Class**→[Native Woody Plant Materials](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:00pm.

August 30-31 - [The Beth Chatto Symposium: Ecological Planting in the 21st Century](#); Colchester, Essex, U.K.

## September

September 1 - [Building Meadows & Seedbanks](#); Alford, MA 10:30am-12:00pm.

September 9 - [The Late Season Garden](#); Rehoboth, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

September 11 - [Emerald Ash Borer Field Day](#); Easthampton, MA; 8:30am-1:00pm.

September 17-19 - [Eastern Native Grass Symposium](#); Erie, PA.

September 18 **ELA Webinar**→[Capturing Carbon with Trees](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

September 20 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Urban Horticulture, Squared](#); Philadelphia, PA; 4:30-6:30pm.

September 22 **ELA Eco-tour/Workshop**→[Meadow Building](#); Alford, MA; 10:00am-12:30pm.

September 22 - [Invasive Plant Identification and Management](#); Waltham, MA; 9:00am-1:00pm.

September 26 **ELA Webinar**→[Landscaping for Plant Diversity](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

September 28 **ELA Class**→[Planning for Pollinators - Appropriate and Aesthetic Solutions](#); Boothbay, ME; 11:00am-5:00pm.

## October

October 4 - [Invasive Plant Symposium](#); Storrs, CT.

October 9 **ELA Webinar**→[Supporting Local Ecology: Native Plants for the Small Home Garden](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

October 11 **ELA Webinar**→[Managing Land for Pollinators and Conservation Biocontrol](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

October 12-22 - [ASLA Annual Meeting & Expo](#); Philadelphia, PA.

October 17 - [Southeast New York Stormwater Conference](#); Beacon, NY.

October 17 - [Landscaping for Bird Diversity](#); Waltham, MA; 5:30-7:30pm.

October 17 **ELA Webinar**→[Designing a Patchwork Ecology in Urban Ecosystems](#); 4:30-5:30pm EDT.

October 18 **ELA Eco-tour**→[Groundcovers - Ecological Solutions in Place of Mulch](#);

Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

October 29-December 13 - [UMass Extension's Green School](#); Milford, MA; twice weekly, 9:00am-3:30pm. Early registration discounts end September 24.

October 31 **ELA Webinar**→[Keeping Carbon in the Ground: A Scientific Exploration of Climate Change and Soil Health](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

October - Landscape Portfolio Lecture Series; Bronx, NY. TBA

### November

November 1-3 - [New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference](#); Fairlee, VT.

November 5 **ELA Season's End Summit**→[The Sensory Garden - Elements to Enrich Every Landscape](#); Community Harvest Project Barn; North Grafton, MA; 8:00am-4:30pm.

November 7-8 - [Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo](#); Boxborough, MA.

November 8 **ELA Webinar**→[Sustainable Landscape Applications, Applied Ecology, Ecological Services, and Biomimicry](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

November 13-15 - [Storm Water Solutions Conference & Exhibition](#); Chicago, IL.

November 15 **ELA Conference**→[Mid-Atlantic Conference: Winterthur](#); Winterthur, DE; 8:00am-5:00pm.

### December

December 4 **ELA Webinar**→[Backyard Carbon Sequestration - How You Can Help](#); 1:30-2:30pm.

December 7 **ELA Conference**→[2018 Ecological Plant Conference](#); Brooklyn, NY; 8:00am-5:00pm.

---

*Each author appearing herein retains original copyright. Right to reproduce or disseminate all material herein, including to Columbia University Library's CAUSEWAY Project, is otherwise reserved by ELA. Please contact ELA for permission to reprint.*

*Mention of products is not intended to constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of ELA's directors, staff, or members.*

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](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

[Visit Our Website](#)

Ecological Landscape Alliance | 617-436-5838 | [ELA.info@comcast.net](mailto:ELA.info@comcast.net) | [WWW.Ecolandscaping.org](http://WWW.Ecolandscaping.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

