

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

August 2018



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

### From the Editor

Inspiration arrives in many forms. A fabric swatch. A glimpse from the window of a moving train. A walk in the woods. A novel workshop. Two upcoming ELA events promise to offer plenty of inspiration: [Planting for Pollinators - Appropriate and Aesthetic Solutions](#) on September 28 and an [Advanced Design Workshop with Roy Diblik](#) on October 18. Space is limited. In the meantime, we hope this month's newsletter articles will provide you with inspiration as summer wanes.

A note to readers. ELA has been "housecleaning" this summer, and one virtual cupboard we're cleaning out contains outdated email addresses. In early July, we contacted parties who appear not to have opened emails from ELA for a couple of years and asked for a Reply confirming that we should keep the email address active. If we do not receive a reply, we plan to delete the email address next week. Unfortunately, emails that are forwarded to a second address show as unopened. We hope that no one is adversely affected by our clean up, but if your contact is deleted and you want to continue to receive our emails, we hope you'll rejoin the list by [clicking here](#). Thanks for your understanding. *MPS*



### Sustainability: Discovering the True Definition, Defining the New Paradigm by Trevor Smith

Sustainability is about giving back as much as we take. How do we apply those principles to the landscape industry? Trevor suggests we need to ask more of our designs, engage with communities, and develop opportunities to engage the next generation of GI professionals. He demonstrates with four case studies. [Read the article.](#)



## Wait! Do you really want to plant that there?

by Bruce Patterson

Even though gardeners are generally exhorted to put a plant in its preferred habitat, sometimes that advice conflicts with the gardener's own vision. [Read the article.](#)

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## A Walk in the Garden

Text by Dan Jaffe

Photos by Penny Lewis

A walk through a beautiful garden is almost always inspirational. Earlier this year, ELA took a walk through Garden the Woods in Framingham, MA to see what was blooming. [Read the article.](#)

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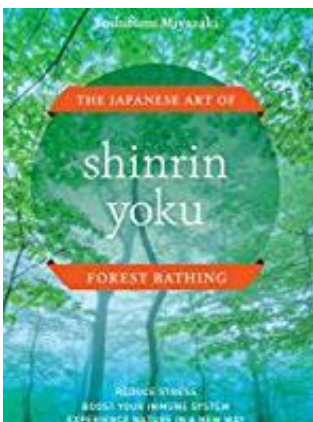


## Breaking Up a Boxy Backyard

by Susan Morrison

In her latest book, *The Less Is More Garden*, Susan Morrison considers numerous creative design solutions for small backyards. In this excerpt, she looks at options for boxy backyards and shares the transformation of her own backyard. [Read the article.](#)

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## Book Review: Shinrin Yoku - The Art of Japanese Forest Bathing

Written by Yoshifumi Miyazaki

Published in the U.S. by Timber Press, 2018

In an era when adults suffer from diseases caused by stress and children are diagnosed with Nature Deficit Disorder, Yoshifumi Miyazaki writes about the history and benefits of forest bathing and explains his research into this and other nature therapies. [Read the review.](#)

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## 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.



### Alternatives to Grass on a Hillside

I am on the board at a 64 unit condo community in St. Paul, MN. We have a huge hillside with regular grass, which means weekly mowing. The hillside is eroding in some sections. The shaded areas have very little grass at all. How can this be converted to a low mow fescue? Or, what other options would there be? It's very costly just to mow the area due to the slope. The current board is very environmentally conscious. We don't want to use chemicals and want to restore/use some type of native options. [Read the Pro's Answer.](#)



### Fall Food for Hummingbirds

Do you have suggestions for late-season blooming native plants in the Northeast for hummingbirds? The hummingbirds in my gardens have been very active on the early- and mid-season monarda and annual salvias, but they will be gone in the next couple of weeks and I want to ensure a sufficient nectar source. [Read the Pro's Answer.](#)

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## ELA News

### Upcoming Events

You'll want to sign up early for these two unique ELA events coming up in the fall:

#### Planning for Pollinators - Appropriate and Aesthetic Solutions

This joint program with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, to be held at their 295-acre shore-land property, will provide an afternoon alive with pollinators and planting ideas that will lure bees and butterflies to the garden for a feast and safe harbor. The program on September 28 includes a guided walk through the gardens. [Find out more.](#)

#### An Advanced Design Workshop with Roy Diblik

##### Perennial Garden Design with Affection, and Planting Through Self-discovery

Limited to 35 participants, this daylong workshop offers a rare opportunity for attendees to plumb the depths of this master plantsman and designer's experience over four decades. October 18, 9:00am-4:30 pm at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. [Find out more.](#)

#### Conway Collaboration Continues

ELA is pleased to announce the continuation of its annual partnership with The Conway School. This partnership includes membership for all Conway students; encourages knowledge sharing through exchanged newsletter articles and program speakers; and provides opportunities for student engagement within the ELA community of landscape professionals. The Conway School is a ten-month master's program that teaches and practices design of the land that is ecologically and socially sustainable.



## Gleanings

### Why the 'Greening' of Vacant Land Is a Smart Long-Term Investment in Cities

In this excerpt from "The Empty House Next Door," author Alan Mallach challenges cities to reimagine vacant properties into pocket parks, urban farms and other green space as a permanent commitment to sustainable infrastructure. [Read the Next City post.](#)



### Most Rain Gardens Fall Flat. This One Shows How It's Done

Designed to capture and hold stormwater, rain gardens are a good thing, but many of them fall flat, requiring maintenance that never happens or suffering from poor planting. Successful rain gardens at the U.S. Botanic Garden conservatory work hydrologically as well as horticulturally. [Read the article in The Washington Post.](#)



### Wildflowers Combat Climate Change with Diversity

If natural selection is as powerful as Darwin predicted, why aren't individuals within a species all indistinguishable and equally fit? Josh Puzey at William & Mary studies the link between natural selection and genetic variation. Puzey and scientists from four research institutions collected and analyzed *Mimulus guttatus* in the Iron Mountain region of Oregon over two year, connecting genotype to phenotype and evaluating the results of natural selection in a changing climate. [Read more at Phys.org.](#)



### Inside Philadelphia's Green Roof Revolution

Over the past two decades, Philadelphia has evolved from a green-roof backwater to a leader in the field. [Read more at BillyPenn.com.](#)



### Free webinars: Understanding Urban and Community Forests

Collaboration among southern extension services has produced a monthly webinar series focused on a variety of topics such as the effects of forests on health, strategies for developing storm-resilient urban forests, pollinator habitat in urban forests. Several webinars remain in the series and all past webinars are recorded and available for free. [Click here for more information.](#)



### New Urban Farm Brings Cheer to Deserving Community

A 2.7 acre property covered with wind-blown trash has become an organic garden in Providence, RI. [What Cheer Flower Farm](#), the project of three dedicated women, donates bouquets and buckets of cut flowers to groups in need of a little cheer. [Read the article in ecoRI News.](#)



### Rivers in the Sky: How Deforestation Is Affecting Global Water Cycles

A growing body of evidence indicates that the continuing destruction of tropical forests is disrupting the movement of water in the atmosphere, causing major shifts in precipitation that could lead to drought in key agricultural areas in China, India, and the U.S. Midwest. [Read more at YaleEnvironment360.](#)



### **COGDESIGN Project Showcase**

Final designs for eight 2017-18 projects will be showcased on September 20 from 6:00-8:00pm at Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Building. The evening will include a presentation on the Charlesgage Masterplan by Dan Adams and Marie Law Adams. [Find out more and register.](#)



### **Emerald Ash Borer in Rhode Island**

Rhode Island is the latest state to federal quarantine erected to prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. [Read more at RI.gov.](#)



### **Spotted Lanternfly Lookout in New Jersey**

Spotted Lanternfly was confirmed in New Jersey in July. [Watch](#) the Public Service Announcement and find New Jersey specific information [here](#) and [here](#). Find regional information in the [May 2018 ELA Newsletter article.](#)



### **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](#).

#### **RootSkills Conference**

The Grassroots Fund seeks organizers, educators, nonprofits, and sustainable businesses to facilitate workshops for the RootSkills Conference December 7-8 in Worcester, MA. RootSkills aims to connect community organizers, students, businesses, and nonprofits working to address social justice challenges and improve community health, community resilience, and the environment across New England. [Additional information here.](#)

#### **CIPWG Invasive Plant Symposium**

Poster presentations are being sought for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium on October 4, 2018 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT. Relevant topics include invasive plant research, management, education, and native alternatives. Deadline September 14, 2018. [Find more information here.](#)



### **Grants**

#### **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.



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

### August

- August 20 - [Planting in a Post-Wild World with Thomas Rainer](#); Moore Community Center, Ellsworth, ME; 7:00pm.
- 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 25-26 - [Pollinator Palooza](#); Boylston, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.
- Aug 27-30 - [Adobe Suite Intensive Training](#); Northampton, MA; 9:00am-5:00pm for four days.
- August 28-September 11 **ELA Class**→[Native Woody Plant Materials](#); Framingham, MA; on Tuesdays, times vary.
- August 30 - [Soak Up the Rain New England: Greening the Streets of Watertown, MA](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:30pm EDT.
- 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 7 - [Massachusetts Certified Arborists Program: An Overview](#); Wellesley, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.
- September 8 - [RISE - People's Climate Movement March](#); nationwide.
- 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 11 - [Conservation Planning for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects](#); South Kingston, RI.
- September 12 - [Conservation Planning for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects](#); South Kingston, RI.
- September 12 - [Soak Up the Rain New England: Green Streets in Dense Communities](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:30pm EDT.
- 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 24-28 - [Green Roofs for Healthy Cities - CitiesAlive 2018](#); Brooklyn, NY.
- September 26 **ELA Webinar**→[Landscaping for Plant Diversity](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.
- September 27-28 - [NH Invasives Academy](#); Rye, NH.
- 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 4 - [MA Green Careers Conference](#); Westborough, MA;
- October 9 **ELA Webinar**→[Supporting Local Ecology: Native Plants for the Small Home](#)

[Garden](#); 12:30-1:30pm EDT.

October 9-12 - [NOFA Organic Land Care Program](#); Portland, ME.

October 9-12 - [Yale Sustainability Leadership Forum](#); New Haven, CT. Discounts before August 31.

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 19-22 - [ASLA Annual Meeting & Expo](#); Philadelphia, PA.

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 8,15,29;December 6,13 **ELA Class**→[Residential Landscape Design](#); Framingham, MA; 4:00pm.

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

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

November 28 **ELA Class**→[Low Maintenance Gardening](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

November 30 **ELA Class**→[Meadows 1-2-3](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.

### **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.

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

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