

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

December 2018

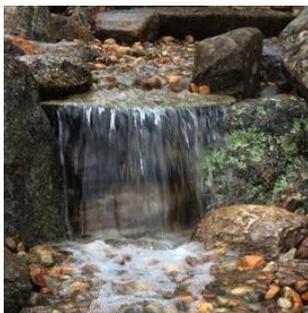


Advocating for ecological landscape practices  
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

### From the Editor

It's hard not to be enthusiastic about ecological principles after experiencing this fall's regional conferences. The incredible range of speakers and topics offered new insights into ecological landscapes. And though the schedule for 2018 holds no further events, webinars and classes pick back up in January, and we will be preparing to celebrate ELA's 25th Conference & Eco-Marketplace, March 6-7. The conference is returning to the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center on the UMass Amherst campus. You can find the [conference brochure](#) online, including speaker biographies and descriptions of the wide range of conference sessions being offered. As always, there will be time for networking with attendees, speakers, and exhibitors.

This final newsletter of 2018 features two articles offering design inspiration with water features and edible plants. We also learn about the certification process for a SITES pilot project (first of two parts) and consider the issue of urban deforestation. Enjoy the reading and best wishes for a joyful winter season. *MPS*



### Conducting Water - Orchestrating the Song of the Landscape by Trevor Smith

It's not just the visual elements of the constructed water feature that make it appear natural; it's the sound of the water. Achieving the sounds of a stream in nature requires a mix of falls, tumbles, ripples, and dips. Play the videos and follow a stream to discover the different sounds water can make. [Read the article.](#)



### Beyond the Vegetable Patch - Strengthening the Food Connection in the Garden by Kerry O'Kelly and Darcy Paige

Many people have lost their connection with their food and food sources. How can landscape designers help their clients reconnect with their landscapes as a source of food and sensory pleasure? [Read the article.](#)



## SITES Certification Journey at Dancing Tree

by Margot Taylor

Having chosen to enter her own property as a pilot project in the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), the author tells her story of a collaborative design process engaging a large team of professionals. The project results is a stunning and sustainable property with three-star SITES certification. [Read the article.](#)



## Mitigation of Suburban Deforestation: The Important Role of Designers

by Marie Chieppo

Suburban forests are being demolished at an alarming rate. As houses replace forests, wildlife struggles to find suitable habitat. How can landscape designers be part of the solution? [Read the article.](#)

## ELA News

### Inside ELA

As we wrap up a successful year, ELA is grateful to everyone whose membership, generosity, and participation make our work not only possible but deeply gratifying. This year with your support, we have offered major events in Massachusetts, Delaware, New York, and Maine, expanding our reach to include new audiences, speakers, sponsors, and partner organizations.

The view ahead is even more exciting. ELA's webinars and classes will continue right through the winter, and on March 6 and 7 we will convene in Amherst, Massachusetts for the [25th annual ELA Conference and Eco-Marketplace](#). Early registration is now open, so it's a great time to take advantage of discounted rates. The conference is a warm gathering of community and an educational feast; we hope you'll join us there.

Toby Wolf, PLA  
President, Board of Directors



### Thank You New York

The third Ecological Plant Conference in Brooklyn offered a day packed with education and inspiration. Thanks to committee members, attendees, speakers, and sponsors for a stellar event.

#### Special thanks to our Conference Sponsors!

[The Round House](#) - [New Moon Nursery](#) - [Long Island Natives](#) - [Planters' Choice](#)  
[Atlantic Nurseries](#) - [Colorblends](#) - [Compostwerks!](#) -  
[Kurt Bluemel, Inc.](#)



### Virtual Coffee on Break

Virtual coffee will be on break this month, but will pick up again in January. Save up your program ideas until then.



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## Gleanings

### Troubling Trend Sees 96% Decline in Monarch Butterflies

In the 1980s, roughly 4.5 million monarch butterflies wintered in California. The count conducted in 2018 shows there may have been as few as 30,000 across the state - a number 87% lower than the year before. [Read more at The Guardian.](#)



### Sparing vs. Sharing: The Great Debate Over How to Protect Nature

Is it better to save nature by cordoning off areas for parks and open space or to integrate conservation measures on working lands? Recent research makes a case for each of these approaches and reignites a long-standing debate among scientists and conservationists. [Read more at Yale Environment 360.](#)



### A New View of Urban Areas

The world's cities are expected to grow by another 2.5 billion people by 2050. A new collection of satellite images starkly illustrates the sheer size and imprint of the world's urban centers and their vulnerability in the face of population growth and climate change. [Read more in Yale Environment 360.](#)



### One in Three British Unable to Identify Common Species of Tree

Researches polled 2,000 UK adults and found six in 10 could not identify a maple or oak leaf. That said, most admitted to enjoying being around trees and wished they knew more about them. [Read more in Independent.](#)



### Diverse Forests Are Stronger Against Drought

Researchers recently published a paper in [Nature](#) reporting on the strength forests achieve through diversity traits. Forests of trees that employ a high diversity of traits related to water use suffer less of an impact from drought. [Read more in University of Utah News.](#)



### Depletion of Nitrogen in Forest Soil Could Reduce Trees' Ability to Offset Climate Change

A study published in [Nature Ecology & Evolution](#) analyzed the chemistry of forest leaves and found a reduction in stored nitrogen between 1980 and 2017. Growth spurred by climate change is reducing the nitrogen available in the soil, which ultimately limits levels of carbon sequestration. [Read more in Bay Journal.](#)



### Seed Libraries: The Sharing Economy for Plants

As more and more seed libraries sprout up across the country they are generating controversy. [Find out more.](#)



### Climate News

Though the news is not good, you may want to check out the two most recent reports on global climate: [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) and [The Fourth National Climate Assessment](#). The reports indicate it is very likely that in 20 years the earth will see a rise in global temperatures of 1.5 degrees Celsius, resulting in worsening food shortages, increased wildfires, and mass die-off of coral reefs. The effects of a 1.5 degree change are potentially cataclysmic for world economies, human health and safety, clean water, and adequate food supplies.



### Tree Pittsburgh Is Branches Out

After 12 years, Tree Pittsburgh has moved to a new building on the Allegheny River in Upper Lawrenceville, one that evokes a sustainable energy model and includes room for educational events, including ongoing courses addressing tree anatomy and growth, and tree care. [Read more in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.](#)



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**Ecological Landscape Conference Sustaining Sponsor  
The Round House Restoration**

Renowned landscape designer, Darrel Morrison is working to restore ecological function to a decades-old suburbanized landscape. [Learn more.](#)

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# NEW MOON



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### New Directions in the American Landscape conference

Jan. 10-11, 2019 - Blue Bell, PA (near Philadelphia)

Jan. 17-18, 2019 - New London, CT

Learn more at [nda.org](http://nda.org). Register for PA at [online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS](http://online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS). Register for CT at [ConnColl.edu/the-arboretum](http://ConnColl.edu/the-arboretum)

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Developed by Larry Weaner Landscape Associates  
Co-sponsored by Morris Arboretum of the Univ. of Pennsylvania and  
Connecticut College Arboretum



Our landscape design conference delves into pressing issues shaping our landscapes now and into the future including ecology, social justice, food production, and culture. Featured speakers include Kofi Boone, William Cullina, Rick Darke, and Thomas Woltz.

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

#### January 2019

January 10-11 - [Ecology-based Landscape Design. What Comes Next?](#); Blue Bell, PA.

January 15 **ELA Class**→[Diversify Your Lawn](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-2:30pm.

January 17-18 - [Ecology-based Landscape Design. What Comes Next?](#); New London, CT.

January 24 **ELA Webinar**→[Farming on the Wild Side: Regenerative Production Practices Based on Multifunctional Perennial Plants](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

January 29 **ELA Webinar**→[Climate-Wise Landscaping: Practical Actions for a Sustainable Future](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

#### February

February 4 **ELA Webinar**→[Fire in Landscape Management - Strategies for Living with It](#); 12:30-1:30pm.

February 7 - [Spotted Lanternfly Preparedness Conference](#); Milford, MA; 8:00am-3:30pm.

February 9 **ELA Class**→[Understanding and Managing Soils](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.

February 9 - [Advance Growers Workshop](#); Warren, RI; 1:00-4:00pm.

#### March

March 3 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Bristol, RI; 8:30am-4:30pm.

March 5 - Community Tree Conference; Amherst, MA; save the date.

March 6-7 **ELA Conference**→[ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#); Amherst, MA.

March 18-20 - [International Biomass Conference & Expo](#); Savannah GA.

March 14 **ELA Class**→[Current Trends in Horticulture: Adapting to a Changing Climate](#); Framingham, MA; 6:30-8:00pm.

## March (cont'd)

March 21 **ELA Class**→[Right Plant, Right Place: Introduction to Choosing Native Plants](#);  
Framingham, MA; 6:30-8:30pm.

March 28-30 - [6th Fabos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning](#); Amherst, MA.

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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*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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