

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

January 2019



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

From the Editor

With no snow on the ground to hinder the view, I find my gaze continually drifting to gardens and woods and planning future projects. There are many winter conferences and programs offering lots of opportunity for education and inspiration, including ELA's 25th Conference & Eco-Marketplace. The first day of the ELA conference on March 6 offers intensive consideration of forest dynamics in light of changing climate and growing urbanization. Articles this month pick up on the topic and give us a glimpse into forests. We also offer some offbeat ways to keep fit during the off-season and a review of *Healing Earth*, ecologist John Todd's new book due out this month. You can find descriptions of all the ELA Conference sessions along with speaker biographies in the online [conference brochure](#).

Don't stop at the articles. Be sure to read ELA News below. Two ELA Socials are being organized in the Boston and Worcester areas. These are fun opportunities to network, to introduce friends to ELA, or to check out ELA for yourself if you aren't yet a member. We hope you'll join us if you are in the area. *MPS*



Managing Forests as a Natural Climate Solution: Understanding the Contributions of Heterogeneous Landscapes

by Ian A. Smith and Lucy R. Hutyra

Constraining global average temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius will require both a reduction in greenhouse gas emission rates and natural climate solutions through land stewardship practices that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Forest management is at the heart of many climate solutions. [Read the article.](#)

Dr. Lucy Hutyra will present "What is the Carbon Value of Trees Across Developed Landscapes?" on March 6, at [ELA's 25th Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#).



Seeing the Potential of Wood-Inhabiting Fungi in the Managed Landscape

by Tara Mitchell

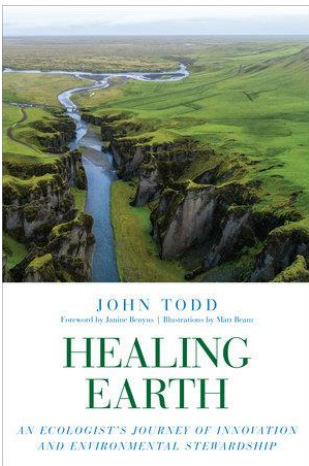
Wood-inhabiting fungi are at the core of a forest's ability to regenerate and provide habitat for wildlife. However, in the realm of the managed landscape, we focus solely on the destructive aspects of decomposers. Designing to allow for natural processes along with aesthetics gives wood decomposers a place in the landscape. [Read the article.](#)



Forest Bathing: Tap into the Healing Power of Forests

by Judy Beaudette

Better than a pill, forest bathing is said to offer medicinal benefits without negative side effects - aside from not wanting to get back to your desk. Find out more about this growing practice and the physical and mental benefits it offers. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review: Healing Earth - An Ecologist's Journey of Innovation and Environmental Stewardship

Written by John Todd

Reviewed by Cindy Goulder

Though it's easy to be overwhelmed with despair by the many degradations of our natural world and the tumultuous effects expected with climate change, John Todd, a pioneer in ecological recovery and sustainability, is not despairing. Written as he approaches 80 years old Todd's new book is full of hope and optimism. [Read the review.](#)



Stay Fit this Winter

by Maureen Sundberg

Keeping fit through the winter makes it easier to spring into action when the weather breaks. Even if you avoid gyms and exercise classes, there are plenty of ways to keep moving. Exercise now and then join Physical therapist Dr. Lisa Trimby on March 7 at the ELA Conference to find out more about how to keep your body well-tuned during the off-season in order to reduce your risk of injury. [Read the article.](#)



The Birds and the Trees: Managing the Urban Forest for Wildlife

by Dr. Susannah Lerman

Due to the federal shutdown, Dr. Lerman's article was unavailable for use in this issue of the newsletter. We hope to include an article from Dr. Lerman before she presents at the ELA Conference on March 6. Find out more about her research on the [Forest Service website.](#)

ELA News

Seeking Spanish Speakers

As part of ELA's 5-year strategic plan, the organization seeks to offer print and video resources in Spanish. To meet our goals we are looking both for input from our newsletter audience, as well as for volunteer support. Email ELA at ela_new@verizon.net if you can provide input or help by answering the following:

1. Would you be interested in using existing ELA materials translated into Spanish? If so, on which topics?
2. Are you a Spanish-speaker with landscape experience who might volunteer up to 4 hours a month to help with translation of existing materials and to provide guidance on future programs and articles?

ELA Winter Socials

Winter is here! Let's break our dormancy and get together to share a meal or a drink with other ELA members. On Wednesday, February 20 we are offering TWO locations for ELA Socials. Come alone, or better yet, bring a friend who might enjoy the ELA Community. See below for details.

Boston Area Wednesday, February 20, 6:30-9:00pm

[American Fresh Brewhouse & Taproom](#)

Assembly Row, 490 Foley Street, Somerville, MA 02145

American Fresh has a full [menu](#) and free 3-hour parking is available in the garage next door. Send your RSVP to rie@ecolandscaping.org by February 15 so we can ensure we have enough room for everyone.

Worcester Area

Wednesday, February 20, 6:30-9:00pm

[Armsby Abbey](#), 144 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608

Armsby Abbey also has a full [menu](#) for food and drinks. Free parking in the small lot next to the restaurant after 6:00pm. On-street parking is also available. Please RSVP to mark@ecolandscaping.org by February 15 to make sure we have enough room for everyone.

Virtual Coffee on January 23rd

Do you know of a project that demonstrates ecological principles and could provide an educational opportunity? Take a few minutes to share that program idea with ELA on Wednesday, January 23. Call in between 12:30pm and 1:00pm to help design this season's lineup of ELA eco-tours. Email ahead to ela_new@verizon.net for the call in number.

2019 Conference & Eco-Marketplace Exhibitors

Join our growing list of exhibitors for ELA's 25th Conference & Eco-Marketplace!

[Amherst Nurseries](#) -- [Bigelow Nurseries](#) -- [Conway School](#)-- [Fourth Generation Nursery, Inc.](#)
[Green Earth Ag & Turf](#) -- [Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association](#)
[North Creek Nurseries](#) -- [OESCO, Inc.](#) -- [Pavers by Ideal](#)



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Gleanings

Small, Isolated Habitat Patches Crucial to Species Survival

According to new research published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), small, isolated patches of vegetation could play a much bigger role in conserving biodiversity than previously thought. [Read more in EurekAlert.](#)



Half of Vermont Bumble Bee Species Gone or in Peril

Researchers from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the University of Vermont's Gund Institute conducted field surveys to document changes in bumble bee population. Results published in the [Journal of Insect Conservation](#) identify four species as no longer present and four in significant decline. [Read more at VTDigger.](#)



A Grassroots Effort to Save the Trees

In India's burgeoning urban areas, residents are rallying against the widespread destruction of trees to make way for development. The recent protests highlight a global issue: densely populated megacities in the developing world, which are most in need of tree cover, often have the least. [Read the article in Yale Environment 360.](#)



2018's Top New Plant Discoveries

Around the world, species hunters unearthed 128 vascular plants and 44 species of fungi, many already facing extinction. [Read more in The Guardian.](#)



Insect Populations Are Declining. How Worried Should We Be?

Widely reported studies in 2017 and 2018 led to global headlines referencing "insect Armageddon." The real story though more nuanced is just as unsettling.

[Read more in Ensia.](#)



Permeable Pavers Meet Hurricane

A porous pavement path at Houston's Nature Discovery Center installed in March 2017 was tested five months later when Hurricane Harvey crossed Texas.

[Read about the project in SWS.](#)



App Shows Threat to Wildflower Diversity in Woods

Introduced for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, a new app, AR Perpetual Garden, educates users on the state of nature due to deer overpopulation. 3-D models compare two visions: one of a diverse forest, the other of a depleted forest with fewer plant and animal species. [Read more in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.](#)



Making Green Infrastructure Maintenance Part of the Plan

Without maintenance, Green Infrastructure (GI) projects risk becoming part of the problem rather than the solution. Planning and designing GI projects with consideration given to follow-up, long-term maintenance can offer cost-effective solutions that prevent expensive restorative practices later. [Read more in SWS.](#)



Florida Monarch Populations Decline 80 Percent Since 2005

Data reported by researchers at Sweet Briar College shows a decline in Florida's monarch butterfly population since 1985 and a drop of 80% between 2005 and 2017. Results point to loss of milkweed habitat. [Find out more at Florida Museum.](#)



Green Industry Survey

UMass Extension is conducting a survey to get insight into the challenges facing the Green Industry in Massachusetts and requests your participation. Information will be used by researchers and UMass Extension Educators to develop research, create programming, and

provide an overview of the state of the industry. [Click to take the survey before February 28.](#)



Call for Designers

COGdesign has accepted eight projects for 2019 and is looking for volunteer designers to see the projects through to completion. Find out more information on the [COGdesign website](#).



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

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

January

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

January 19 - [Ecological Gardening](#); West Stockbridge, MA; 10:00am-4:30pm. Additional dates in February.

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

January 24 - [Artists of New England and Their Gardens](#); Wellesley, MA; 1:00-5:00pm.

February

February 2 - [Ecological Gardening](#); West Stockbridge, MA; 10:00am-4:30pm. Additional date in February.

February 2 - [Conway School Information Session](#); Easthampton, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.

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

February 6 - [The Challenge and Promise of Restoring Urban Landscapes; Cambridge, MA; 7:00 - 8:30pm.](#)

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.

February 15 - Application deadline for June 3-9 [Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart](#), an intensive seminar in Japanese garden arts; Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR; 9:00am-5:00pm daily.

February 16 - [Ecological Gardening](#); West Stockbridge, MA; 10:00am-4:30pm.

February 20 - **ELA Webinar**→[Finding Common Ground - In Pursuit of Sustainable Landscaping](#); 12:30-1:30pm

February 26-27 - [MNLA Green Industry Job Fair](#); Marlborough, MA.

March

March 1 - [The A-Z of Stormwater Management in the Landscape for Professionals](#); Oregon City, OR; 8:30am-5:00pm.

March 1-2 - [Ithaca Native Plant Symposium](#); Ithaca, NY.

March 3 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Bristol, RI.

March 3 - [Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-5:30pm.

March 5 - [Community Tree Conference: Species Selection in the Urban Landscape](#); Amherst, MA; 8:00am-3:00pm.

March 6 - [Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Understanding the Vital Powers of Plants](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
March 6-7 **ELA Conference**→[ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#); Amherst, MA.
March 18-20 - [International Biomass Conference & Expo](#); Savannah GA.
March 21 **ELA Class**→[Right Plant, Right Place: Introduction to Choosing Native Plants](#); Framingham, MA; 6:30-8:30pm.
March 23 - [MassLand Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
March 28-30 - [6th Fabos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning](#); Amherst, MA.



Adult Education Instructor, Tower Hill Botanic Garden

Tower Hill Botanic Garden seeks contract instructors to deliver a variety of mission-related classes and workshops for adults. The qualified candidate will possess the skills necessary to convey information to students using an array of materials and methodologies. Instructors must be able to develop their own curriculum and lesson plans and deliver those plans to students to a satisfactory level of competence.

Find more information on the [Tower Hill Botanic Garden website](#).

MassTrails Grants Coordinator

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation seeks applicants to assist the MassTrails Program Manager in implementing and facilitating the new MassTrails grants program as well as other trail-associated duties, including assistance in planning the next MassTrails Conference. Find more information on [mass.gov](#).

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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. *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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STAY CONNECTED:

