

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

August 2019



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

From the Editor

A pair of ruby-throated hummingbirds dive into the bee balm for a sip, birds and squirrels tussle for fruit in the dogwood tree, and a monarch butterfly drops toward the mountain mint. It's August and all creatures are gorging on the summer bounty in my landscape. Native plants and sustenance for wildlife are the focus of several of this month's articles, with authors offering their perspectives on design inspiration. In addition to finding inspiration in this month's articles, check the many [new programs](#) ELA has scheduled for the fall. There's truly something for everyone. *MPS*



Urban Landscape Inspirations from Native Plant Communities

by **Ethan Dropkin**

Many designers and horticulturists have the unique and challenging task of greening our cities where growing conditions are less than favorable. Too often they resort to using a limited palette of largely exotic species, but by looking to native plant communities, they can develop landscapes that thrive in and contribute to the urban environment. [Read the article.](#)

Ethan will present on native annuals at the 2019 Ecological Plant Conference on December 6. Find more information [here](#).



Designing for Pollinators and Other Wildlife

with contributors **Carol Capobianco, Adrian Aydes Fisher and Connie Schmotzer**

As demand grows for plants that support pollinators and other wildlife, ELA reached out to a few experts to find out which species they recommend for inclusion in every landscape design. [Read the article.](#)



Members Making a Difference Native Plant Demonstration Garden Is a Labor of Love

by Maureen Sundberg

ELA member Marie Chieppo initiated a collaboration with the Town of Needham to install a native plant demonstration garden at a busy public park. With the help of local volunteers and her own teenage children, the installation took place over six weeks this spring, and she continues to maintain the site. [Read the article.](#)



On Revitalizing Garden Culture Through Experience Design

by Meg Herndon and Sandra Nam Cioffi

Since post-industrial urbanization drew people off the land, we've lost a personal connection with farms and with the natural world. Those of us with experience need to connect new generations of gardeners with their landscapes in ways that recognize the challenges of modern life. [Read the article.](#)

Jennifer Jewell recently interviewed Meg and Sandra for her radio program "Cultivating Place." You can listen to the interview [here](#). Jennifer will present the Keynote at ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace, March 4, 2020.



Ten Elements of Natural Design

by Larry Weaner

The elements that make a landscape design "natural" are difficult to define. A landscape with curved bed lines, informal plant arrangements, and no pyramidal yews does not always qualify as a natural landscape. And advocates of natural design are not necessarily eager to banish a host of beautiful exotics from the plant palettes of American landscape designers. The basic concept behind natural design, however, is fairly simple - to incorporate native plant communities into the designed landscape. But their successful incorporation requires a basic understanding of how native plants operate in nature. Read the article. [Read the article.](#)



Eco-Answers from the Pros

Designing Complementary Sun and Shade Beds

I can't figure out how to have a shade bed complement the sun bed directly across from it. The brickwork makes them a symmetrical pair of beds, and I am having a hard time visualizing what would work right across from the climbing roses, lambs ears, baptisia, gaura, japanese anemones, euphorbia, and salvia. I am completely stumped! [Read the Pro's advice.](#)

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, ask ELA's Eco-Pros. Send your question to ela_new@verizon.net.



From the Archives

Gathering Gardener's Knowledge

by Noel Kingsbury

Plant reference books offer limited information about the long-term performance of herbaceous perennials. A plant master evaluates perennials for qualities of longevity, vegetative spread, competitiveness, speed of establishment, and self-seeding. [Read the article.](#)

ELA News

Welcome to ELA's New Trustees

At Annual Meeting on July 23, ELA welcomed four new Trustees voted onto the Board of Directors by ELA members. Irene Brady Barber, Heather Heimarck, Dan Jaffe (who filled a mid-term vacancy), Penn Marchel, and Julie Snell have begun three-year terms that will end in 2022. ELA looks forward to working with our five extremely qualified and enthusiastic new board members. You can find out more about our new board members [here](#).



Look for Great Fall Events!

With summer waning, look to a great new lineup of ELA educational events. September 11 begins Season 7 of *Focus on Sustainability*, ELA's collaborative webinar series. Webinars cover a broad range of topics presented by regional experts. Find the [2019-2020 Schedule here](#).

And don't miss out on four regional events taking place over the fall months. Event descriptions, speaker bios, and registration information are posted online. Some venues will fill up; don't wait until the last minute to register:

- ~ [Reconnecting with Trees: A Path to Improved Health and Well-being](#), Boothbay, ME
- ~ [Season's End Summit: Taking Landscapes to the Next Level](#), North Grafton, MA
- ~ [The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#), Wilmington, DE
- ~ [2019 Ecological Plant Conference; Brooklyn Botanic Gardens](#), Brooklyn, NY



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An ELA Affiliate Event



Sustainability Intensive: A One-Week Workshop at NYBG

Monday-Friday, September 30-October 4; 9:00am-3:00pm

Creating and maintaining healthy, beautiful landscapes that minimize fertilizers, water, pesticides, and time is the aim of every forward-thinking gardener or designer. Developed by NYBG's Horticulture Department and School of Professional Horticulture, this five-day sustainability workshop provides a comprehensive, real-world overview of current best horticultural practices for our region. Ten three-hour sessions taught by expert practitioners combine field lectures, classroom case studies, and NYBG site tours for a firm foundation in ecological design and sustainable practice. Up your game with informed principles and practical solutions for managing soil, water, pests, and plants. Register now at nybg.org/adulted.

Gleanings

Maine Forest Service Releases Wasps to Kill EAB

In July, the Maine Forest Service released three species of wasps in Aroostook County, the northernmost corner of Maine, in an effort to eradicate emerald ash borer. [Read more in the Boston Globe.](#)



New Xerces Fact Sheet: Fungicides & Pollinators

From large farms to small backyards, many people treat plants with fungicides. The Xerces Society's new fact sheet, Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides: Fungicide Impacts on Pollinators, review the evidence about the risks to pollinators from fungicides and offers ways to reduce those effects. [Download the Fact Sheet.](#)



Mental Health and Green Space Planning

As more empirical evidence reveals the value of experience with nature on mental health, researchers look at the impacts of nature experience on cognitive functioning, emotional well-being, and other dimensions of mental health. They then consider how ecosystem service assessments can be expanded to include mental health. [Read more in Science Advances.](#)



Xerces Bee Better Certification Reaches Stores

Begun in 2017, the Bee Better Certification program, a collaboration among Xerces Society, AC Foods, and Oregon Tilth, recently reached a milestone with their first licensed product, blueberries, arriving in stores. [Read more from Xerces Society.](#)



New Perennial Grains Offer Eco-Friendly Way Forward for Agriculture

A new variety of perennial grain known as Kernza is being made into a cereal and beers. Proponents say this marks a significant advance for a new agriculture that borrows from the wild prairie and could help ensure sustainable food production in a warming world. [Find more YaleEnvironment360.](#)



Hold the Balloons

Marine debris in general threatens global bird populations; however, ingestion of balloons in particular have been found to carry a higher risk of bird mortality. [Read more ecoRI News.](#)



Outsmart Invasives with Outsmart Team

Early detection and ongoing monitoring of invasive species is key to control. A free phone app helps you identify and report invasive species anywhere, any time. [Find out more at Masswoods.org.](#)



UMass Turf School Announces 2020 Course

Applications for UMass Winter School for Turf Managers runs from January 6 to February 14 in 2020. Applications for international students are due September 13. Application review for U.S. students begins in early September. [Read more at UMass Amherst.](#)



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

August

August 18 **ELA Class**→[Seed Saving](#); Nasami Farm, Whately, MA; 10:00-3:00pm.

August 20 **ELA Event**→[Advanced Design Workshop with Roy Diblik](#); Valhalla, NY; 8:00am-5:00pm.

August 22 **ELA Event**→[Advanced Design Workshop with Roy Diblik](#); Wilmington, DE; 8:00am-5:00pm.

August 24 - [Rhode Island Native Plant Society Native Plant Sale](#); Cranston, RI; 9:00am-noon.

August 29 - [Can We Vaccinate Trees to Protect Against Diseases?](#) (webinar); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

August 30 - [Soil-Water Relationships & How They Relate to Irrigation](#) (webinar); 2:00-3:00pm.

September

September 5-6 - [New Directions in the American Landscape](#); North Cape May, NJ.

September 7 - [In Celebration of Trees with Dr. Michael Dirr](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-4:00pm.

September 11 **ELA Webinar**→[The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening: Why Native Plants Matter to Songbirds and the Food They Eat](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

September 7&11- [Asters, Goldenrods & Friends](#); Middlesex Fells Reservation, MA; 10:00am-12:15pm.

September 14 - [Landscape and Forest Tree and Shrub Disease Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

September 20 - [The Historical Flora of New York City: Implications for Conservation Action](#); Bronx, NY; 10:00am-1:00pm.

September 23 **ELA Workshop**→[Reconnecting with Trees: A Path to Improved Health and Well-being](#); Boothbay, ME; 8:30am-3:30pm.

September 24 **ELA Tour**→[Effective Invasive Plant Management: Chemical Free and So Darn Cute](#); Belmont, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

September 25 **ELA Tour**→[Asters and Goldenrods - Start to Finish](#); 10:00am-12:00pm; Wales, MA.

September 26 **ELA Webinar**→[The Art of Integrating Rainwater](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 28 - [Life in a Meadow for Children](#); West Stockbridge, MA; 12:00-12:45pm.

October

October 3 **ELA Tour**→[Brooklyn Bridge Park - Urban Oasis for Visitors in an Ecological Package](#); 4:00-6:00pm.

October 10-13 - [Fundamentals of Horticultural Therapy](#); Boothbay, ME. Enrollment deadline Sept. 10.

October 11 **ELA Webinar**→[Regional Effort on Invasive Species and Climate Change \(RISCC\) Management](#) (webinar); 12:30-1:30pm.

October 15 **ELA Webinar**→[Creating Beautiful Gardens While Rewilding the Landscape](#); 12:30-1:30pm.

October 23 **ELA Webinar**→[Plants with True Grit](#); 12:30-1:30pm.

October 26 - [Collecting and Sowing Native Seed](#); Waltham, MA; 1030am-1:30pm.

October 29 **ELA Webinar**→[Climate Change and Its Effects on Trees and Their Relationship to Insects](#); 12:30-1:30pm.

October 31-November 2 - 2019 [MassTrails Conference](#); Leominster, MA.



Full -Time Landscape Designer/Project Manager Needham, MA

The Designer/Project Manager position requires a unique combination of skills and experience in the fields of landscape design, horticulture, and landscape installation practices. The Design/Project Manager will be responsible for taking design projects, including landscape design, annuals & container design and occasional graphic design projects, from conception to completion. Landscape design will entail all aspects of site analysis, base plan drafting, concept & design development,

planting plans, and plant list and acquisition management. Lighting, irrigation, and construction details are also within the scope of the landscape designer position. Container and Annuals design management duties will include plant acquisition, delivery acceptance, site layout, samples and materials management along with client communications. Container and Annuals design will be supported by the gardening staff and coordinated with the office staff. All designs are to be sustainable and commensurate with the mission of Terrascapes. The Designer/Project Manager works under the general supervision of the company President.

For more information, [view full job description here](#). To apply, [send resume and letter of interest to Terrascapes](#)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

We are in the process of hiring six Regional Coordinators for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program to provide technical assistance, foster shared learning, and conduct grant management within their specified region. The position was just re-posted on the MassCareers website, and we are specifically looking to fill positions in the central and western part of the state. Please note this is a contract position. For the job description and portal to apply via MassCareers [click here](#).

Blue Flax Design - 2 Positions Available

BlueFlax Design LLC, a design/build firm located in Harwich, MA (on Cape Cod) specializing in a blend of landscape and ecological restoration design and implementation, seeks a **designer/design assistant** to support the Design Director with projects ranging from traditional residential landscape design to the development of wetland mitigation/restoration plans and land management plans and a **Project Manager** to support the business owner with implementation/construction projects ranging from traditional residential landscape design installations to the implementation of wetland mitigation/restoration plans and ecological land management.

Landscape Designer/Restoration Designer

Status: Full-time, Hourly, non-exempt; Reports to Design Director

Responsibilities of the position include collaborating with and under the direction of the Design Director to develop landscape designs including planting plans, grading plans, landscape lighting plans, hardscape designs (e.g. patios, walkways, pools, retaining walls, etc.), and drafting restoration and land management plans, and writing land management narratives and monitoring reports for presentation to Conservation Commissions and other permitting/regulatory boards and departments. Fieldwork includes site visits for site analysis, measurements, checking spot grades etc. and collaboration with our field crew and environmental technicians to prepare for project implementation.

Landscape Project Manager

Status: Full-time, Salary; Report to Owner

Responsibilities of the position include collaborating with the Owner, Design Director, and field manager in numerous capacities, including to create all projects schedules - long and short term field work scheduling; assign field crew to projects in collaboration with the Field Manager; communicate with clients regarding field work/scheduling and manage customer service relationships, through meetings and communication; prepare and disseminate all required documentation records such as status reports, Conservation documents, permits, work orders describing work items to be done, sketches/records of work already completed, and material requirement calculations to field manager and field crews; develop job essential data including quantity take-offs, material price lists, labor costs per man hour, and equipment to ensure accurate estimates and bids; and perform numerous other necessary tasks.

Contact Theresa@blueflaxdesign.com for the complete list of job requirements or to send resume.

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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](#)

Ecological Landscape Alliance | 617-436-5838 | ELA.info@comcast.net | WWW.Ecolandscaping.org

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