

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

July 2019



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

From the Editor

I love this time of year. I'm enjoying the last of the strawberries and the first of the raspberries. Blueberries are joining the mix; cherries, peaches, and apples will soon follow along a sweet and delicious summer trail. With berries in hand, I'm looking forward to an afternoon focused on orcharding at [Let's Talk Apples](#) on Tuesday, July 23. Read the excerpt from *The Holistic Orchard* by Michael Phillips in this issue of the newsletter, and then join ELA to learn about the bounty and beauty of the fruited landscape.



Stormwater is our featured topic this month. Authors share aesthetic solutions for handling stormwater challenges in articles focused on landscapes that manage water while delivering abundant beauty. The stormwater topic dovetails with the [National Green Infrastructure Certification Program \(NGICP\)](#) class scheduled August 5-9 and offering detailed instruction on a full range of stormwater solutions. Articles also take a look at site preparation for meadow installation and share a research project that will offer new insight into the native/nativar debate. Grab a handful of fruit and enjoy the articles. *MPS*



The Art of Integrating Rainwater by Steven Torgerson

Both a precious resource and a damaging event, rain is a natural part of the earth's ecological system. Although we can't control the rain, we can help direct rainwater once it hits the earth. And direct it in ways both practical and beautiful.

[Read the article.](#)

Steven Torgerson will present a webinar on this same topic on September 26. Find more information [here](#).



Moss: Providing Year-round Green Solutions for Erosion Control

by Annie (Mossin' Annie) Martin

Mosses are far more than an appealing green ground cover; these verdant miniature plants can provide solutions for challenging erosion issues in today's landscapes. In this case study, moss species, intentionally planted, are the entire stormwater solution. [Read the article.](#)



Many Storms and Seasons Later, How Are These Rain Gardens Holding Up?

by Amanda Sloan

After a rainy night, a rain garden designer ventures out to assess the performance of three gardens she designed and installed over the last eight years. Her review considers each garden's visual appeal, system function, habitat value, and maintenance record. [Read the article.](#)



The Orchard System: Haphazard Mulching

by Michael Phillips

Orchard health isn't about a tidy appearance, it's about rich biology that feeds your trees. By releasing cultural notional about the manicured garden, you can find a way to please the neighbors while accommodating principles of health and diversity. [Read the excerpt from *The Holistic Orchard*.](#) Michael Phillips presents "Adaptive Strategies for Dealing with Fire Blight and Other Orchard Challenges" at ELA's [Summer Workshop](#) on July 23.



Citizen Scientists Help Parse the Native/Nativar Debate

by Jessamine (Jessa) Finch

As pollinators lose ground, we've been urged to create more pollinator-friendly gardens, but are all pollinator gardens created equal? A team at the Chicago Botanic Garden has developed a project to evaluate native and nativar support of pollinators by gathering data on pollinator preferences across the country. You can become part of the research team. [Read the article.](#)



Planting a Wildflower Meadow? Site Preparation Comes First!

by Cathy Neal

Successfully establishing a meadow from seed is a three-year process, with the first year devoted to good site preparation. It can be a hard sell, but time spent eliminating competitive vegetation before you plant is essential to long-term success. [Read the article.](#)

On July 30, find out more about meadow site preparation, seed selection, and research at [Connecting the Dots for Pollinator Conservation: Wildflower Meadows and Pollinator Habitat.](#)

Contact Cathy (cathy.neal@unh.edu) to see if space is available.

ELA News

Summer Workshop: Let's Talk Apples

As strawberry season yields to raspberries and blueberries, we know that peaches and apples aren't far behind. Join ELA on Tuesday, July 23 for a workshop on orchard care: [Let's Talk Apples](#). We'll discuss orchards past and present with an eye to the future.



National Green Infrastructure Certification Program

August 5 - 9 ~~~ 8:30AM - 5:00PM ~~~ Boylston, MA

Every week delivers a dire story about heavy storms and regional flooding. Whether the problem is overtaxed stormwater systems [discharging sewage in Boston](#) or streets turning into [streams in Des Moines](#), handling water in the landscape has become an urgent need.

Solutions require professionals with expertise in green infrastructure technologies and a labor force with the skills to meet increasing demands. The National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) provides broad training in green infrastructure in order both to meet growing demand for green infrastructure solutions and to develop the work force of the future. The program offers foundational concepts and skills needed to design and oversee construction, inspection, and maintenance of green infrastructure.

The week of August 5th Trevor Smith, NGICP certified trainer, teaches a NGICP certification class at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA.

Register to become a certified expert in green infrastructure that includes

- Bioretention (rain gardens, curb extensions/bulb-outs, bioswales and stormwater planters)
- Rainwater harvesting
- Permeable pavements
- Green and blue roofs
- Dry wells and stormwater wetlands

[Find course details and registration information here.](#)



Summer Eco-Tours

ELA Eco-Tours offer in-person opportunities to explore ecological landscapes. Professionals involved in designing and installing ecological landscapes act as tour hosts, guiding small groups of attendees, providing context, and answering questions. Refer to the recent events list for [upcoming tours](#).



Virtual Coffee on Hiatus

We're taking a break from volunteer coffee until later in the year. During the interim, if you are inspired by a great idea for a workshop, hear about a great webinar topic, or know of an opportunity ELA should explore, don't hesitate to send an email: ela_new@verizon.net.

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New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) will hold an intensive two-day natural design workshop developed by Larry Weaner on Aug. 8-9 in Galloway, OH, Aug. 13-14 in Staten Island, NY, and Sept. 5-6 in North Cape May, NJ. This program will

provide concrete, real world guidance for designing and documenting all phases of native landscape development. Topics covered will include plant selection criteria, plant recommendations, ecological process-based management specifications, and guidance for maximizing the aesthetic and experiential appeal these landscapes can provide. For more detail, view our [digital brochure](#).



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Gleanings

Eastern White Pine Dieback Update

In the last 10 years, Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) has shown widespread symptoms of decline. Nick Brazee, Plant Pathologist at UMass Extension Plant Diagnostic Lab, provides an update. [Read more at UMass Extension.](#)



Celebrate Fireflies

If you missed World Firefly Day early this month, you can still learn about efforts to support one of summer vacation's iconic insects. [Read more from Xerces Society.](#)



NASA Tool Measures Up Trees

A new tool in the NASA GLOBE Observer app lets citizen scientists help validate tree measurements taken from space. Knowing the height of trees can help researchers estimate the health of the world's forest and calculate the amount of carbon dioxide they retain. [Read more at The Verge.](#)



The Right to Plant Veggies

Fined \$50 a day for violating a local ordinance forbidding vegetables in front yards, a Miami couple lost their case in appeals court. Six years later, the Florida Legislature has passed a bill protecting vegetable gardens. [Read more at NPR.](#)



Circular Cities: What Can Green Infrastructure Do?

The world's population is projected to concentrate even further in urban areas, which will generate more waste and consume more resources, including energy. In a nod to nature, green infrastructure offers opportunities in the transformation of population centers into circular cities. [Read more at Phys.org.](#)



Forgotten Landscapes: Bringing Back the Rich Grasslands of the Southeast

Native prairie and savanna once covered vast areas of the U.S. Southeast from Maryland to Texas, but agriculture and sprawl have left only small patches remaining. A new initiative, driven by scientists and local communities, is pushing to restore these imperiled grassland habitats. [Read more in Yale Environment 360.](#)



UC Biologist Warns Against Pretty Invader

Once a suburban favorite, flowering pear trees are driving out native plants in Eastern forests. A University of Cincinnati biologist issues a warning to other states. [Read more in UC News.](#)



Urban Forestry Webcast Series

Urban Forestry Today offers a free webinar series at noon EST the second Thursday of each month, and you can access archived webinars from their website. [Find more information.](#)



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

July

July 16 - [Fort Williams Cliff Trail - Restoring the Ecology of a Park](#); Cape Elizabeth, ME; 4:00pm.

July 16 - [Gardening for Butterflies and Moths](#); Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA; 6:00-8:00pm.

July 17 - [UMass Turf Research Field Day](#); South Deerfield, MA; 8:00am-1:00pm.
July 17 - [New Hampshire Landscape Association \(NHLA\) Twilight Meeting at Swenson Granite](#); Concord, NH, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.
July 18 - [In-Season Lawn and landscape Turf Training](#); Hadley & Deerfield, MA; 7:00am-3:15pm.
July 19 - [6th Annual Moth Ball](#); Plymouth, MA; 7:00-10:00pm.
July 20-24 - [Greater & Greener - International Urban Parks Conference](#); Denver, CO.
July 23 **ELA Workshop**→[Let's Talk Apples](#); Boylston, MA; 1:00-5:00pm.
July 30 **ELA Tour**→[Connecting the Dots for Pollinator Conservation](#); Wildflower Meadows and Pollinator Habitat; Durham, NH; 8:30am-12:00pm.
July 30 **ELA Class**→[THINKING BIG: Introduction to Landscape Ecology](#); Nasami Farm, Whately, MA; 6:00-9:00pm.
July 30 - [Planning & Implementing Climate Smart Parks in Massachusetts](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:30pm ET.
July 31 - [Storm Water Compliance Success: Using Proactive BMPs to Minimize Regulatory Discharges](#) (webinar); 2:00pm EDT.

August

August 1&8 - [Plant Disease Management](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 10:00am-2:30pm.
August 3 **ELA Class**→[Establishing a Meadow](#); Framingham, MA; 10:30am-12:30pm.
August 5-9 **ELA Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#); Tower Hill Botanic Garden; Boylston, MA; 8:30am-5:00pm.
August 6 & 7 - [Garden Design Clinic](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 1:00pm-4:00pm.
August 10-11 - [Nutrition Matters: Soil Health Builds Human Health](#) - NOFA Summer Conference; Amherst, MA.
August 13-14 - [New Directions in the American Landscape](#); Staten Island, NY.
August 15 **ELA Tour**→[Sustainable Production at Amherst Nurseries](#); Hadley, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.
August 16 **ELA Tour**→[Ecology and Agriculture at Charbrook Farm](#); Princeton, MA; 3:00-5:00pm.
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

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 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.



**Tower Hill Botanic Garden
Manager of Adult Education - Boylston, MA**

Under the direction of the Director of Education, the Manager of Adult Education is charged with attracting and serving a diverse population of new and existing adult audiences through a comprehensive suite of relevant and mission focused, learning opportunities. These learning experiences include interpretation, drop-in activities, lectures, author talks, workshops, symposia, classes, tours, trips, etc. on topics including horticultural therapy, horticulture, gardening, garden design, nature studies, floral

design, art and craft, health and wellness, food and cooking, and more. The Manager of Adult Education oversees all aspects of program planning, development, implementation, and evaluation. The ideal candidate is strategic, creative, highly organized, and has extensive experience with adult program planning and logistics.

For a complete description and application instructions please visit our website at www.towerhillbg.org

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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](#)

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STAY CONNECTED:

