



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

## From the Editor

The 25th ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace packed education, networking, and community into two days in Amherst, MA. Thanks to all who helped develop and deliver an inspirational event and to those who attended. With the conference wrapped up, ELA is looking to spring with more Eco-tours and the [Third Native Plant Garden Tour](#). The focus of the day is native plants. That said, not every plant in the landscape needs to be a native plant to qualify for touring. If you haven't participated, consider becoming a garden host this year. It's a great way to share the beauty and versatility of native plants



Photo: Brianne Bishop

With spring in the air, this issue of the newsletter focuses us on gearing up for the season ahead. We look at steps to ensure successful interactions with contractors and subcontractors and present an interview with a mechanic in charge of preparing a large inventory of equipment for spring. We also consider the microclimates visible at this time of year in the landscape and the danger of tromping on saturated landscapes. Enjoy the reading as we seesaw into spring. *MPS*



## When Your Contractor Is Not Familiar with Ecological Design

by Amanda Sloan

You've designed an ecological landscape, but the contractor hired to build it is not familiar with ecological practices. What to do? One landscape architect shares strategies for ensuring an ecological design results in an ecological landscape. [Read the article.](#)

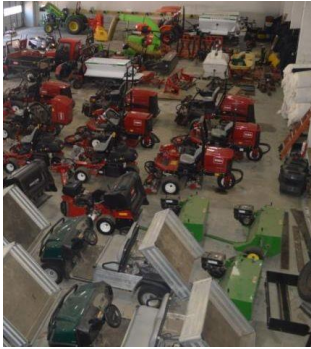


## Prepare for Success with Subcontractors

**Contributors:**

**Lauri Johnson, Nanette Masi, and Trevor Smith**

Managing a project with multiple phases and many subcontracts can present scheduling challenges. We asked three ELA members to share their insights into how they screen subcontractors and successfully manage projects with many players and many moving parts. [Read the article.](#)



## Maintaining Grounds Equipment, an Interview with John Reilly by Bruce Wenning

As the head mechanic at the oldest country club in the United States, John Reilly is responsible for a range of equipment and maintenance needs. Take a glimpse at the inner workings of an organization that requires meticulous lawn care and landscape maintenance. [Read the article.](#)

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## Microclimates Made Visible in Your Yard by Karen Bussolini

As the season lurches from winter to spring, it can be a good time to scan the landscape for microclimates. Rocks, walkways, slopes, water can create slight climatic differences across a relatively small area. [Read the article.](#)

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## Lighten Up: Avoiding Soil Compaction by Maureen Sundberg

In March, crocus pop up from a warm spot in the garden while snow and ice patches still cover the lawn and beds. You're anxious to get out into the yard, but that melting snow and ice has saturated the soil. Your best course of action? Stop yourself. [Read the article.](#)

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## ELA News

### Provide Ecological Lawn Care Services? Let Us Know!

Are you an ELA member offering ecological lawn care services? We often receive requests for referrals. Send a copy of your business card(s) to [ela\\_new@verizon.net](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net) for our reference. We want to learn more about you and your company and hope to feature your work in an upcoming newsletter.

### Third Celebrating Native Plants Tour!

Showcase your native plant garden during ELA's [Third Annual Celebrating Native Plants Garden Tour](#). Whether it's a garden you've nurtured and maintained over decades or just installed at your own or a client's property, ELA invites you to share your passion for native plants on **Saturday afternoon June 22**. Registered guests will visit gardens to share, discuss, and discover the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants. (Hosts determine the number of visitors.) Take advantage of this opportunity to inspire greater use of native plants.

[Learn more here and add your garden to the growing list](#)

### Start Sorting Your Photos

Today begins ELA's second Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted between now and May 31 at 5:00pm. Share your photos of native plants in garden settings and individual specimens. First Prize Winners receive a one-year ELA Professional Membership. Photographers receiving Honorable Recognition will earn \$50 credit toward purchases at the ELA Bookstore. Winners will be announced in June. Find all the details [here](#).

## Join Us for Virtual Coffee, March 20

Whether you made it to the conference or not, let us know what topics you'd like to learn more about and speakers you'd like to hear at ELA programs this year. Join ELA for coffee (virtual) and share your ideas on Wednesday, March 20. Calls take place between 12:30pm and 1:00pm. Drop in for a few minutes, or stay the whole time. Email ahead to [ela\\_new@verizon.net](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net) for the call-in number.

## Conference Thank-Yous

Last week, ELA wrapped up its 25th annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace. A special thank you goes out to members of the 2019 Conference Committee for their tireless work organizing another exemplary event.

**Mark Highland ~ Dan Jaffe ~ Penny Lewis (Chair) ~ Rie Macchiarolo  
Tara Mitchell ~ Kerry O'Kelly ~ Michael Opton ~ Mark Richardson  
Kathy Sargent-O'Neill ~ Trevor Smith ~ Maureen Sundberg  
Angela Tanner ~ Bob Walsh**

## Winter Twig ID

The 2019 Conference offered an annual Plant ID Quiz and as well as a crash course in Winter Twig Identification. Thanks to Dan Jaffe for an enthusiastic 20-minute primer on winter plant identification. And congratulations to the Quiz winners: Robin Zitter was the winner on Wednesday, and Tom Rawinski was Thursday's winner. Both have been awarded free one-year ELA Professional Memberships. Congratulations! Wondering how you did on the Quiz? You can check your answers [here](#).



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## Gleanings

### Tick Talk with TickReport

A free webinar series offered by UMass Extension takes on ticks and tick diseases began in February and continues through May with a late-season update in October. Webinars are archived and accessible on the [UMass Extension website](#).



### Species Sleuths: Amateur Naturalists Spark a New Wave of Discovery

Scientists have not kept pace with the work of discovering new species. Now, a growing number of committed hobbyists are out in the field, igniting a boom in documenting the world's biodiversity. [Read more in YaleEnvironment360](#).



### Plummeting Insect Numbers "Threaten Collapse of Nature"

A global review of data shows that at the current rate of decline, the world's insect population could vanish within a century. [Read more in The Guardian](#).



### D.C Turns to Green Infrastructure to Solve Sewage Problem

A sewerage problem along Rock Creek in Washington, D.C. dates back to the early 20th century. Instead of turning to larger pipes, officials are developing dozens of small green infrastructure projects to solve the problem. [Read more at WAMU 88.5](#).



### **How to Fight Desertification and Reverse Climate Change**

About two-thirds of the world's grasslands are turning to desert. Allan Savory presents a controversial argument for turning to traditional grazing practices as a solution.

[Listen to the TED talk and read the commentary here.](#)



### **The Center for Natural Capital Forms The Rapidan Institute**

The Center recently launched The Rapidan Institute - Wilding Eastern Rivers and Landscapes through Education, Outreach, and Comprehensive Landscape Design. The Institute plans to use a systems approach to address flooding frequency in the Chesapeake Bay. A launch celebration and information session will take place on May 11.

[Find more information.](#)



### **Eastern Monarchs Flourish; Western Numbers Plunge?**

According to World Wildlife Fund-Mexico, conservation efforts over the last 12 years have led to a rise in the number of eastern monarch butterflies hibernating in Mexico, as measured by the area of forest occupied. WWF-Mexico and partners found a 144% increase over last year's survey. However, the western monarch butterfly population dropped by 86% over the same year. [Find out what the numbers mean.](#)



### **Piling Up: How China's Ban on Imported Waste Has Stalled Global Recycling**

China's decision to no longer be the world's dumping ground for recycled waste has left municipalities and waste companies across the globe scrambling for alternatives. But experts say we have an opportunity to develop better solutions for a growing throwaway culture. [Read more in YaleEnvironment360.](#)



### **MAA Arbor Day of Service, April 26**

You can still volunteer with MAA's day of service - this year at Appleton Farms.

[Find more information.](#)



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

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

#### **March**

March 16 - [Unlocking the Mystery of Native Orchids](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 11:00am-12:15pm.

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

March 19 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:00pm.

March 20 - [Planting for Pollinators: Practices and Programs for Pollinator Conservation](#) (webinar); 10:00am EDT.

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

March 22 - [Creating a Yard with Buzz](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 10:00am-12:00pm.

March 23 - [Enhancing Community Through the Land: MassLand Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.

March 28 - [Spring Kickoff for Landscapers](#); Wareham, MA; 8:30am-3:15pm.

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

March 29 - [The Future of Water in New England](#); Hanson, MA; 7:30am-4:00pm.

March 29 - [Shaping the Future of Sustainability](#); Cambridge, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.

March 30 & April 6 - [Soil, Plant, and Farm Methodology Course](#); Providence, RI; 3:00-7:30 both days.

## April

April 3 - [More than Just the Buzz: Finding Real Solutions to Native Pollinator Declines](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

April 3 **ELA Class**→[Sustainable Site Design](#); Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA; 10:00am-3:30pm.

April 4 - [Propagating Natives for Profit and Productivity](#); 9:00am-3:00pm.

April 6 - [Home Orchard Establishment Basics: a Classroom Workshop](#); Phillipston, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

April 6 - [Home Orchard Pest Management: a Hands-on Workshop](#); Phillipston, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.

April 9 - [Developing an Invasive Plant Management Program](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.

April 11-May 16 - [Native Plants of Spring](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 10:00am-12:00pm on Thursdays.

April 12 **ELA Class**→[Shade Gardens: Embracing the Dark Side](#); Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA; 9:30am-12:30pm.

April 13 **ELA Class**→[Tips and Techniques for Healthy Seedling Starts](#); Nasami Farm, Whately, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.

April 15 - Application deadline for September 16-27 [Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart](#), an intensive seminar in Japanese garden arts; Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR; 9:00am-5:00pm daily. Applications due by April 15, 2019.

April 20 - [Deer Ticks and Associated Diseases](#) (free webinar); 12:00-1:00pm EDT.

April 24 - [Ticks and Tick-Associated Diseases Conference](#); Milford, MA; 3:00am-3:30pm.

April 27 - [Pollinators in New Hampshire: Who's Who, How Are They Faring and How You Can Help](#); Concord, NH. 2:00-4:00pm.

April 29-May 2 - [2019 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference](#); Historic Charleston, SC.

## May

May 1 - [A Grassland Restoration Tale of Weeds, Wildlife, and Renewal](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

May 2 - [Vermont Arbor Day Conference](#); Montpelier, VT; 8:30am-4:30pm.

May 8 - [American Dog Ticks and Lonestar Ticks and Associated Diseases](#) (free webinar); 12:00-1:00pm EST.

May 8-10 - [Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Symposium](#); Fort Lauderdale, FL.

May 23 - [Spring Greetings from Woodland Wildflowers](#); Medford, MA; 5:30 - 7:45pm.



### **Full Time Administrative Assistant/Office Manager,**

#### **Helia Land Design, Helia Native Nursery & Sky Meadow Farm**

Kindly email your resume to [helialanddesign@gmail.com](mailto:helialanddesign@gmail.com) or mail to 95 East Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

### **Nature Lover and Detail-Oriented Gardener, Natureigns Gardens**

Contact Dawn Gelb, [GardenGirlDawn@gmail.com](mailto:GardenGirlDawn@gmail.com) or Suzen Perry, [natureigns@gmail.com](mailto:natureigns@gmail.com)

### **Onsite Leadership Position, AquaTerra Designs**

Looking for career-minded individuals to join our team. Internal training and mentorship offered. See ads on INDEED or contact Kristen,

[aquaterrallandscapes@gmail.com](mailto:aquaterrallandscapes@gmail.com)

### **VT - Agricultural Territory Manager, Casella Organics**

Our business is growing. Find out more <https://www.casella.com/available-careers>; contact [john.kelly@casella.com](mailto:john.kelly@casella.com)

### **Full and Part Time Eco-Gardening Positions, Lauri Johnson Landscape Design**

We seek enthusiastic, thoughtful, nature-loving people to join our team. Training provided. Contact Lauri Johnson <https://laurijohnsondesign.com/hire-us>

### **Multiple Positions with Holmes Fine Gardens**

#### **Sustainable Landscape Designer, Horticulturist, IPM/Chem App professional**

Connect through our website: [www.holmesfinegardens.com](http://www.holmesfinegardens.com)

### **Part Time Installation, EcoPlantPlans**

Contact Marie - [mariechieppo@me.com](mailto:mariechieppo@me.com)

### **Paid Seasonal Internship, The Fells Historic Estate & Gardens**

Learn the day-to-day operations and care of a historic public garden and landscape. Interns work on a site-based project as well as daily plant and garden care tasks. Contact Nick Scheu, Landscape Director, [nscheu@thefells.org](mailto:nscheu@thefells.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](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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