

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

November 2018



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

From the Editor

It's the time of year when we pause to say thank you to our members and supporters; we appreciate seeing you at events and receiving your emails. Thank you for your continued good will and generous support. ELA plans to offer additional thanks by hosting a round of networking events over the winter. First up is a Boston area gathering. Be sure to check the details in ELA News. Want to help organize a gathering in your area? Send an email to ELA's [Membership Committee](#).

Now is also a good time to reflect back on the season. For me, the highlight of every November newsletter is what I call "the year in review" article - notes and photos of work in the landscape recorded by a dedicated author over the course of the season. This year's author highlights a new design and installation that handled beautifully the temperature and precipitation extremes of 2018. We round out the issue with summer wildflowers, small-garden design templates featuring native plants, and an article from the ELA Archives. And finally, we put out a request for you, our readers, to share your own experience from the year passing by. We'll use your input in planning events and articles for 2019 and hope to feature some of your work in an upcoming newsletter. Enjoy the thanks giving season. *MPS*



Deluge and Drought: A Landscape Designed for Rainwater Management by Julia Bunn

The 2018 season was one for the record books: record low temperatures, record high temperatures, record rainfall, and a little bit of drought. The tough season tested a new landscape designed for on-site management of all the stormwater falling on the residential site. How did the landscape handle the season? [Read the article](#).



Wildflowers of Summer by Carol Gracie

In the busy blur of summer activities, our many beautiful summer wildflowers are often overlooked. Yet both our native summer-blooming wildflowers and the many common introduced plants that line our roadsides in summer are beautiful and contribute to the overall ecology. [Read the article](#).

Ms. Gracie will present at ELA's [Ecological Plant Conference](#) in Brooklyn, NY on December 7.

DESIGN TEMPLATES
CORNER GARDEN

Every yard has at least one corner which can be made more beautiful and welcoming with the addition of flowers and interesting foliage.



Native Plants for the Small Yard:

Easy, Beautiful Home Gardens that Support the Local Ecology

by Kate Brandes

Most people want their yards to fit in with their neighbors' yards and fear that native plants will be too messy. "Native Plants for the Small Yard" is a guidebook offering design ideas for small spaces, all featuring native plants. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Brandes presented "Supporting Local Ecology: Native Plants for Small Home Gardens" as part of ELA's Focus on Sustainability webinar series. ELA members have free access to recorded webinars as a member benefit.



From the ELA Archives

Digging into Ecological Landscaping by Following Nature's Lead

by Kate Harnett, Mary Tebo, and Marilyn Wyzga

As evidence of extreme weather and ecological stress become more obvious, people are becoming more motivated to change their ways. But, how can we sort through the complexity of information coming at us, to understand and effectively work with that complexity in managed landscapes? We can take our cues from a system that evolved over 3,500 million years, and follow nature's lead. [Read the article.](#)



Name Your Success! Share Your Struggle!

What successes did you enjoy this year? A project that unexpectedly evolved without incident? The perfect plant combination for a difficult space? A winning strategy against an invasive species? Or perhaps your greatest success was discovering a new way to market your business or share your ecological approach with clients.

In spite of our best efforts, not every project goes off without a hitch. What problems did you run into this season and what did you do when things didn't work out well? What knowledge would have helped? Which expert did you turn to?

[Send us an email](#) with a few sentences about your year's successes and failures. We'll follow up in an upcoming newsletter, and we'll use your experiences to tailor ELA programs for the coming year.

ELA News

ELA Boston Area Social

Fall is upon us and the days are getting darker. What better time to gather with colleagues, friends, and like-minded folks to celebrate the change of the season? Join us at Aeronaut Brewing Company in Somerville, MA for conversations, stories, and networking. Come by yourself, or better yet, bring a friend! Aeronaut does not serve food, but we'll have some light snacks waiting. [The Ways and Means Committee](#) takes the stage at 8:00pm, so feel free to come early or come later to enjoy the music.

Wednesday, December 12th - 6:30-9:00pm

[Aeronaut Brewing Company](#), 14 Tyler Street, Somerville, MA



Share Your Ideas with ELA

Take a few minutes to share your program ideas with ELA on Wednesday, November 28. Call in between 12:30pm and 1:00pm to share your expertise and inspire new and ongoing ELA programs. Email ahead to ela_new@verizon.net for the call in number. On November 28, take a short break and give us a call.



Autumn Education! 2018 Ecological Plant Conference in New York

Join ELA at Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Brooklyn, NY for our third annual **Ecological Plant Conference**. Five plant experts provide details on cultivation, propagation, behavior, and ecological function of their top plants, from ground covers to trees. You don't want to miss this deep dive into plants. Discount rates at the conference hotel available until November 16.

Thank you to our New York Conference Sponsors!

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Gleanings

Redrawing the Map: How the World's Climate Zones Are Shifting

Rising global temperatures are altering climatic zones around the planet. Here's a stark look at some of the distinct climate features that are already on the move, including America's climate transition known as the 100th Meridian. [Read more in Yale Environment360.](#)



Scientists Offer Warning on Dicamba Use

The drift-prone insecticide dicamba has been in use for decades, but more aggressive use since 2015 has put sensitive plants, and the pollinators that feed on them, at risk. [Read more at thefern.org.](#)



Monitor Your Favorite Environment with Picture Post

Digital Earth Watch (DEW) network has developed a new tool, Picture Post, for non-scientists to monitor their environments and share their photographed observations and discoveries. Install a post, add camera, and start clicking. [Read more at unh.edu.](#)



Do Retention Ponds Do What They're Supposed To?

Researchers at UNC Institute for the Environment analyze the water and sediment in retention ponds to determine if they are working as advertised to remove nitrogen and phosphorus, in addition to collecting and holding harmful pollutants. [Find out more.](#)



Cities Want Greener Rooftops

The growing push to meet renewable energy goals has U.S. cities looking to this low-tech solution that has worked throughout Europe for more than 40 years. [Read more at FutureStructure.](#)



Beetle Mania: The Insect Killing Trees in Johannesburg

Johannesburg claims one of the world's largest urban forests, but the city is under attack by an invasive insect that is killing trees by the tens of thousands. Not limited to South Africa, the non-native beetle has also been found in Israel and Southern California. [Read more in Yale Environment 360.](#)



Polyurethane-eating Fungus Discovered

A previously undiscovered strain of fungus (*Aspergillus tubingensis*) found at a garbage dump in Islamabad, Pakistan has been found to secrete enzymes that break down the chemical bonds of plastic. [Read more in Sierra.](#)



MA DEP Launches Stormwater Awareness Campaign

"Think Blue Massachusetts" is a new statewide educational campaign that encourages residents and businesses to do their part in reducing polluted runoff. [Find out more.](#)



Alternatives to Neonicotinoids

UMass Extension has released a Fact Sheet describing the rise of products containing neonicotinoids as a class of insecticide, the toxic effects on insects, actions professionals can take to support pollinators, and active ingredient alternatives to neonicotinoids. [Read more.](#)



COGdesign Seeks New Community Partners

Providing professional landscape design services to under-served communities for 21 years, COGdesign is now seeking new applicants with worthy projects. Deadline extended through November 26. Find out more on the [COGdesign website.](#)



Conway Students Present

Student presentations of individual ecological design projects take place November 16 and 18 at the Conway School's Northampton, MA campus. [Find out more.](#)



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



Horticulture Symposium: *Cultivating a New Garden Ethic* *November 28, 2018; 10 a.m.*

In this morning symposium, three distinguished speakers explore how our gardening practices can satisfy our desire to create bountiful beauty while helping heal the larger environment. Award-winning landscape designer Larry Weaner shares design and planting techniques that can effect important change. Author Scott Freeman shares lessons learned from a massive ecological restoration project at Tarboo Creek outside of Seattle. And Jan Merryweather will discuss PlantRight—a network of partners coming together to keep invasive plants out of California nurseries, gardens, and wildlands. [Sign up now!](#)

30th annual
**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 ndaal.org. Register for PA at online.morrisarboretum.org/LDS. Register for CT at ConnColl.edu/the-arboretum

- CEUS AVAILABLE -

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)

November

- November 17 - [Managing for Climate Change](#); Cromwell, CT; 8:00am-3:30pm.
 November 27 - [Fall Wrap-Up](#); Hadley, MA; 8:30am-4:00pm.
 November 27 - [Where Are the Monarchs and Milkweeds?](#) (webinar) 2:00-3:00pm ET.
 November 28 **ELA Class**→[Low Maintenance Gardening](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.
 November 28 - [Cultivating a New Garden Ethic](#); NYBG, Bronx, NY; 10:00am-12:30pm.
 November 29 - [Biochar for Sustainable Soils](#) (webinar); 5:00-6:30pm ET.
 November 30 **ELA Class**→[Meadows 1-2-3](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-4:00pm.

December

- December 1 - [Native Seed Sowing Workshop](#); Augusta, ME; 10:30am-12:00pm.
 December 2 - [Organic Land Care: Sustainability for You, Your Business & the Environment](#); South Kingstown, RI; 2:00-4:30pm.
 December 4 **ELA Webinar**→[Backyard Carbon Sequestration - How You Can Help](#); 1:30-2:30pm ET.
 December 5 - [Saving Central Park: A History and a Memoir](#) - an evening with Elizabeth Barlow Rogers; Brookline, MA; 6:00pm reception; 7:00pm lecture.
 December 7 **ELA Conference**→[2018 Ecological Plant Conference](#); Brooklyn, NY; 8:00am-5:00pm.
 December 7-8 - [RootSkills Conference](#); Worcester, MA.
 December 8 - [Fall Native Seed Sowing Workshop](#); Falmouth, ME; 10:30am-12:00pm.
 December 8 **ELA Class**→[Propagating Native Plants from Seed: Part 1 - Dormancy and Sowing Techniques](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.
 December 13 - [Farming with Beneficial Insects for Pest Control](#) - Xerces program; Keene, NH; 9:00am-3:30pm.
 December 14 **ELA Webinar**→[Quest for Resilience: Adaptive Strategies for Sustainable Plant Design](#); 1:30-2:30pm ET.
 December 14 **ELA Class**→[Design-Less Gardening](#); Framingham, MA; 10:00am-12:00pm.

January 2019

- 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.

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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