

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

September 2019



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

From the Editor

As summer turns to autumn, the ELA program spigot turns wide open with a stream of one-day workshops and conferences. Up first is a workshop at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine - the perfect site to combine ecological education with early autumn beauty. Don't miss Reconnecting with Trees and the opportunity to combine the latest findings in tree research with design inspiration and a hands-on design charette.

Late summer also features a surge of weeds and invasive plants in the landscape. This issue of the newsletter focuses control of invasive species during restoration. Find a few minutes to take a look at some of the strategies being employed before you head out to wrangle difficult plants in your landscape. *MPS*



Goats as an Ecological Management Option for Invasive Plants

by Sandy Vorce

"Gotta get a goat" was the author's mantra a decade ago as she struggled against bittersweet, buckthorn, and multiflora rose to regain a portion of meadow at Mass Audubon's property in Belmont, MA. Her wish was granted, and the sanctuary now successfully utilizes a four-footed crew to control invasive plants. [Read the article.](#)

Sandy conducts an Eco-tour [Effective Invasive Plant Management: Chemical-Free & So Darn Cute](#) at Mass Audubon Belmont on September 24.



Native Plants Shine in Streambank Restoration

by Krissy Boys

Four years after replacement of a streambank water control structure, native grasses, sedges, and forbs planted at the site have become well established. Most species are thriving and have propagated themselves by self-sowing in the streambank gardens; only two species out of 58 genera have completely failed. [Read the article.](#)



Controlling Invasive Species During Restoration

with contributions from Julie Snell and Ellen Snyder

Invasive plants can cause significant challenges at restoration sites. We asked two ELA members to share their experiences managing invasive plants and to offer tips for success. [Read the article.](#)



From Wasteland to Wildflower Meadow at Greenfield Community College

by Maureen Sundberg

Tony Reiber designed a campus wildflower meadow as part of a larger outdoor learning lab that included a botanical garden, wetland garden, permaculture garden, and raingarden. Two years after planting, the meadow at Greenfield Community College has grown into an oasis of learning for students across the academic spectrum. [Read the article.](#)



Climate Round-Up The Power of Trees!

by Angela Laws

Why is photosynthesis relevant to climate change? Because it is the process by which plants remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it - known as carbon sequestration - and they're very good at it, especially trees. [Read the article.](#) Reconnect with trees on September 23 at ELA's one-day workshop in Boothbay, Maine. Find more information [here.](#)



Eco-Answers from the Pros

Managing Invasive Honeysuckle

I run an organic landscape design/build, and we constantly are dealing with honeysuckle removal. Currently our eradication method involves cutting the honeysuckle down to the stump and applying an organic herbicide like Burnout or Avenger. On a small scale, we will also cover the stump with heavy duty landscape fabric. On a larger scale, we expect that there will be some grow back and will be back another time to cut back any regrowth. Are there other organic approaches to honeysuckle eradication? [Read the Pro's advice.](#)

What Should I Do with Leaves?

I am a groundskeeper who is trying to manage my grounds in a more ecological manner. I currently mulch (chop into tiny bits with the lawnmower) my leaves and leave the mulch on the lawn. I'm wondering would it be

better for me to leave the leaves whole and let them blow around where they may. Or should I collect them and dump them into nearby non-lawn naturalized areas? [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.



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ELA News

Conway Collaboration Enters 4th Year

ELA is pleased to announce the continuation of its annual partnership with The Conway School. This partnership includes ELA membership for all Conway students; encourages knowledge sharing through exchanged newsletter articles and program speakers; and provides opportunities for student engagement within the ELA community of landscape professionals. The Conway School is a ten-month master's program that teaches and practices design of the land that is ecologically and socially sustainable.



Enjoy a Great Fall Lineup

ELA has four terrific regional events lined up for the fall. Join us for one...or more!
~~In Boothbay, Maine, a workshop focuses on trees and their essential place in the built landscape with [Reconnecting with Trees: A Path to Improved Health and Well-being](#) in Boothbay.

~~In Massachusetts, The Season's End Summit convenes in North Grafton to take a fresh look at design fundamentals with [Taking Landscapes to the Next Level: Stepping Back and Thinking Big](#).

~~In the Mid-Atlantic, we collaborate with Delaware Center for Horticulture to present [The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#).

~~In New York, the [2019 Ecological Plant Conference](#) invites five plant masters to share their perspectives on plants for resilient designs.



Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.
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Gleanings

Unintended Harm from Popular Pesticides

New studies show that neonicotinoid pesticides pose unexpected risks to insects by contaminating the food chain. When target insects consume the pesticide, traces show up in the insects' excrement, which is often a food supply for other insects. [Read more in NPR: The Salt.](#)



California to Build World's Largest Wildlife Crossing

Hoping to prevent localized extinction of species, Southern California transportation officials entered the final design phase of a wildlife crossing over U.S. 101 - ten lanes of busy highway northwest of Los Angeles. [Read more in AP News.](#)



A Diversity of Plants Helps Stabilize Ecosystems

As people search for ways to help Earth's biosphere withstand the effects of climate change, they might turn to a relatively little-appreciated phenomenon: how plant diversity stabilizes ecosystems in the face of stress. [Read more in Anthropocene.](#)



Monarch Chrysalis Not Just on Milkweed

As you clean garden beds, remember monarch butterflies pupate in many places, not just on milkweed. If you've seen caterpillars in your gardens, but never found a chrysalis, you could be looking in the wrong place. [Read more here.](#)



COGdesign Annual Showcase

COGdesign welcomes the public to its annual showcase of projects developed over the last year. Gregory Watson, Director of Policy & Systems Design at the Schumacher Center for a New Economics, is the featured speaker. [Find more here.](#)



Sustainable Landscaping Workshop Series

The Town of Concord, MA is offering a three-workshop series to provide residents with information for designing, constructing, and maintaining their own sustainable spaces. [Read more at concord.ma.gov.](#)



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

September

- September 17 - [Soil Health and Fertility](#); Charleston, RI; 6:00-8:00pm.
September 20 - [The Historical Flora of New York City: Implications for Conservation Action](#); Bronx, NY; 10:00am-1:00pm.
September 20 - [Changing Climate, Changing Health](#); Boston, MA; 7:15am-11:45pm.
September 20-27 - [Global Climate Strike](#).
September 23 **ELA Workshop**→[Reconnecting with Trees: A Path to Improved Health and Well-being](#); Boothbay, ME; 8:30am-3:30pm.
September 24 - [Goin' Mobile: Mapping Your Stormwater Assets](#) (webinar); 1:30-3:00pm ET.
September 24 **ELA Tour**→[Effective Invasive Plant Management: Chemical Free and So Damn 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.
September 28 - [Westfield River Watershed Blitz](#); Cummington, MA.
September 28 - [Invasive Plant Identification and Management](#); Waltham, MA; 9:30am-1:30pm.

October

- October 1 - [Erosion Control Workshop](#); Chelmsford, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
October 2 - [Erosion Control Workshop](#); North Grafton, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
October 3 **ELA Tour**→[Brooklyn Bridge Park - Urban Oasis for Visitors in an Ecological Package](#); 4:00-6:00pm.
October 3 [Native Plants and Pollinators Conference](#); Storrs, CT; 8:00am-3:20pm.
October 9 - [2019 Tick Updates from the UMass Laboratory](#) (webinar); 12:00-1:00pm ET.
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 17 - [The Impacts and Costs of Invasive Insects](#); Sturbridge, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.
October 20 - [Going Native: How to Transition Your Garden](#); Waltham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.
October 23 **ELA Webinar**→[Plants with True Grit](#); 12:30-1:30pm.
October 23-25 - [With an Eye Towards Nature: A Japanese Garden Design Intensive](#); Portland, OR.
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 - [Invasive Forest and Agricultural Insects of Massachusetts: Present and Future](#); Sturbridge, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.
October 31-November 2 - [2019 MassTrails Conference](#); Leominster, MA.

November

- November 7 **ELA Conference**→[Season's End Summit: Taking Landscapes to the Next Level](#); North Grafton, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.
November 11 **ELA Webinar**→[Reliable Hydrangea Blooms? Choose Natives](#); 2:00-3:00pm ET.
November 14 **ELA Conference**→[The Plant Pollinator Partnership](#); Wilmington, DE; 8:30am-4:00pm.
November 14 - [Management of Invasive Forest and Agricultural Insects of Massachusetts](#); Sturbridge, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.
November 19-29 - [Conservation Conference 2010](#); Baltimore, MD.

December

- December 6 **ELA Conference**→[2019 Ecological Plant Conference: Brooklyn Botanic Gardens](#), NY; 8:30am-4:00pm.

Submit events by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



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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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