



# Sustaining the Living Landscape

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace  
March 4 & 5, 2020 at the UMass Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center, Amherst, MA



## ELA's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace

March 4 & 5, 2020

### Inspiration

### Education

### Application

### Collaboration

Attend ELA's 26<sup>th</sup> Conference & Eco-Marketplace to re-energize your practice and prepare for spring! Network with other professionals and enjoy this year's inspiring presentations full of information you can apply in practice. ELA offers two full days of research and field-tested expertise as well as innovative case studies on a wide variety of topics.

Wednesday features two educational workshop tracks. Track One – explore soils from “micro to macro” with a dive into the intricacies of soil.... hear about the latest research, and learn how to apply new practices for results in the landscape. Track Two explores the detailed workings of meadow ecosystems and what it takes to make a successful meadow project and more.

Thursday offers a broad range of sessions. Delve into landscape design elements from native shrubs to playscapes and larger ecological landscapes, including rain gardens and modern agricultural models. Enjoy a presentation or join an idea exchange to engage with your peers on timely topics.

Up your game this year. Come join the Ecological Landscape Alliance community for inspiration, education, and new opportunities.

### Intensive Sessions: March 4

#### ► Understanding Soils from Micro to Macro

Healthy soil equals healthy plant communities that are critical to biodiversity and thriving ecosystem services. Join soil experts for this day-long look at the physical, biological, and chemical aspects of soil. Learn the latest research and best practices for soil management. Explore the unique symbiotic relationships of soils and trees with an in-depth focus on urban trees.

#### ► Developing Meadows from the Ground Up

Meadows are beautiful, dynamic habitats with the capability of supporting rich biodiversity. Healthy meadows can also manage stormwater, provide filtration, sequester carbon, and provide aesthetic and recreational value. In this workshop, meadow experts will share hands-on experience from site preparation, to meadow design, through establishment, and ongoing maintenance to inform and inspire your next meadow projects.

Wednesday, March 4  
Keynote Dinner 6:30-8:30pm

with

Jennifer Jewell

*The Earth In Her Hands –  
Remarkable Plantswomen Expanding the  
Ecology of Horticulture*

As we move forward to meet the environmental, cultural, and economic challenges of our time – human community is as much a factor in ecological landscaping as floral and faunal communities. Based on her new book, *The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Remarkable Women Working in the World of Plants*, Jennifer Jewell walks through ways in which women specifically are reimagining horticulture through sometimes surprising and encouraging endeavors – making the many branches of “horticulture” more creative and viable career paths for a much wider diversity of women. These women and their work have profoundly positive impacts on the larger world environmentally, culturally, and economically – making them role models for us all.

Ms. Jewell is the creator and host of *Cultivating Place*, an award-winning public audio program and podcast on natural history and the human impulse to garden. The program is a voice for, with, and about gardeners and nature lovers of all manner from around the world, exploring how and why we garden and what we mean when we garden. Through thoughtful conversations with growers, gardeners, naturalists, scientists, artists, and thinkers, *Cultivating Place* illustrates the many ways in which gardens and gardening are integral to our natural and cultural literacy.

Ms. Jewell learned how and why to garden from her mother and learned to love the diversity and interconnectedness of all life from her wildlife biologist father. Traveling the world and reading, gardening, and hiking, she was inspired by the generous and smart plant and garden people she met. She has been writing about gardens and horticulture since 1998, and her work has appeared in *Gardens Illustrated*, *House & Garden*, *Pacific Horticulture*, and other magazines. Her first book, *The Earth in Her Hands* (Timber Press, 2020), profiles 75 extraordinary women working in the world of plants and transforming horticulture around the world.



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## DAY ONE Conference Schedule Wednesday, March 4, 2020

“ [The] ELA Conference always cures my “winter blues” by re-energizing [me] for the new season, but it also inspires my creative thinking... –Lori S.


	AUDITORIUM	ROOM 163C
	Developing Meadows from the Ground Up	Understanding Soils from Micro to Macro
9:00am - 10:30am	<b>Michael Nadeau</b> Wholistic Land Care Consulting LLC Meadow Preparation Using Ecological Processes and No Synthetic Chemicals	<b>Mark Highland</b> Organic Mechanics Soil Company Respecting the Soil: Research and Results from the Field
11:00am - 12:30pm	<b>Pennington Marchael</b> Pennington Grey Meadows: If You Build It, They Will Come	<b>Michael Ormston-Holloway</b> The Planning Partnership Designing and Implementing Urban Ecologies #1: Urban Soils Through the Lens of Urban Forestry
2:00pm - 3:30pm	<b>Leslie Duthie</b> Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary Grasses and Sedges for the Meadow Habitat	<b>Kirsten Kurtz, PhD</b> Cornell University Evaluating Soil with the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH)
4:00pm - 5:30pm	<b>Cathy Neal</b> Horticulture Specialist and UNH Extension Professor Emeritus Converting Lawns into Wildflower Meadows	<b>Michael Ormston-Holloway</b> The Planning Partnership Designing and Implementing Urban Ecologies #2: Landscape Diagnostics Through Case Studies
6:30pm - 8:30pm	<b>Keynote Dinner with Jennifer Jewell</b> <b>Kenote: The Earth In Her Hands – Remarkable Plantswomen Expanding the Ecology of Horticulture</b> Cultivating Place, National Public Radio	

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Online Registration

Visit [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org) to register online!

#### Continuing Education Credits

CEU credits have been requested from APLD, ASLA, ISA, LA CES, MAA, MLP, MNLA, , NOFA, OLCF, and others.

#### ELA Bookstore

Open throughout the ELA Conference. Your bookstore purchase helps to support ELA educational programs.

#### Contact Information

Visit [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org) for online registration, general information, and conference details.

#### Attendee information

Penny Lewis at (617) 436-5838

#### Exhibitor information

Trevor Smith at (617) 308-7063

#### On-site Registration

Walk-in registrations welcome, or register at the event: March 4 and 5.

#### Hotel:

Rooms at Hotel UMass are available to participants for \$125 per night. Reservations will be taken no later than February 20, 2020. Register online or call (877) 822-2110 and specify the ELA group promotional code: ELA20C. The discount is NOT available at check-in.

#### Cancellation Policy

To receive a refund, your request must be received prior to

February 25, 2020. A \$60 handling fee will be deducted. No refunds will be made after that date unless the conference is canceled. For recorded cancellation information, call (617) 436-5838.

#### Disclaimer

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## DAY TWO Conference Schedule Thursday, March 5, 2020

“The speakers were all excellent and very enlightening. I came away with lots of new knowledge. I also enjoyed meeting and networking with lots of like-minded professionals. –Mark E.

	AUDITORIUM	ROOM 163C	ROOM 162
	Design Presentations	Practices Presentations	Idea Exchanges Panel Discussions
9:00am - 10:30am	<b>Dan Jaffe</b> Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary  What Do You Mean You're Not a Perennial? Native Shrubs Managed as Cut-Backs	<b>Steven Torgerson</b> AMT Landscape Architecture  Why Rain Gardens and Bioretention Facilities Fail and Tools for Success	Moderator: <b>Mark Richardson</b> Panelists: <b>Michael Piantedosi, Uli Lorimer, TBD</b>  Adaptation for an Unpredictable Future – Can Plants Meet the Challenge?
11:00am - 12:30pm	<b>Leslie Duthie</b> Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary  Designing with Ferns: The Dependable and the Divisive	<b>Trevor Smith</b> Land Escapes Design  Field Notes: A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward	Moderator: <b>Heather Heimarck</b> Panelists: <b>Geovani Aguilar, Marie Chieppo, Dan Jaffe, John Kinchla, Darryl Newman</b>  Native Plants: Sourcing, Establishing, Maintaining
2:00pm - 3:30pm	<b>Laura Kuhn</b> Laura Kuhn Design Consultation  A Stick in the Spokes: Intervening with Regenerative Approaches	<b>Keith Nevison</b> Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello  What's Growing on at Monticello? Creating a 21st-century Model for Diversified, Experimental Agriculture, and Land Stewardship on Thomas Jefferson's Land	<b>Russ Cohen &amp; Georgia Hann</b>  Enhancing the Edibility of Northeast Landscapes with Native Species
4:00pm - 5:30pm	<b>Nancy Striniste</b> EarlySpace, LLC  Creating Outdoor Spaces that Connect Children to the Natural World	<b>Lori Silvia</b> St. George's School  The Challenges and Complexities of Ecological Gardens: A 5-year Journal of Discoveries	<b>Russ Cohen &amp; Georgia Hann</b>  Propagating Native Edible Plants from Seed and Adding Them to Landscapes – a hands-on session



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**WEDNESDAY March 4, 2020 Intensive Sessions**

## DEVELOPING MEADOWS FROM THE GROUND UP (Auditorium)

**9:00-10:30am**

### **Meadow Preparation Using Ecological Processes and No Synthetic Chemicals**

**Michael Nadeau, Wholistic Land Care Consulting, LLC**

The most frequent reason for meadow failure is poor site preparation. Complete control of the existing vegetation AND the seed/propagule bank must be achieved before seeding can be done successfully. Mr. Nadeau will take an in-depth look at proper preparation of the meadow site using ecological processes and making well-considered choices. This presentation looks at exploiting weaknesses and vulnerabilities, nutrient sequestration, breaking the photosynthetic sequence, root maceration, seed bank destruction, organically acceptable vegetation control measures, the importance of timing and persistence, and more. Mr. Nadeau shines a bright light on the fallacy that meadow propagation is best accomplished with synthetic chemicals.

**11:00am–12:30pm**

### **Meadows: If You Build It They Will Come**

**Pennington Marchael, Pennington Grey**

Mr. Marchael presents an overview of meadow creation and design along with the biodiversity that results from putting back what nature intended. This presentation offers a glimpse into the rich species diversity that comes from establishing a meadow and making the right choices from design through maintenance. Plant communities that dominate the natural ecosystems will be a focus.

**2:00–3:30pm**

### **Grasses and Sedges for the Meadow Habitat**

**Leslie Duthie, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary**

Native grasses and sedges shine in the meadow, providing color and textural beauty, filling spaces that would yield to weeds, preventing soil erosion, and supporting pollinators, birds, and small mammals. They are essential components of a low-maintenance wildflower meadow. Integral to the meadow landscape, grasses and sedges play a variety of design roles, from low-key groundcover to seasonal superstar. Grasses are an excellent food source while providing nesting habitat, shelter, and protection for birds, mammals, and a large array of insects. Highly-adaptable sedges also protect soil and provide food for wildlife, especially for seed-eating turkey, grouse, and songbirds, but also for rabbits, deer, and a variety of insects, which eat the leaves and stems.

**4:00–5:30pm**

### **Converting Lawns into Wildflower Meadows**

**Cathy Neal, Horticulture Specialist and UNH Extension Professor Emeritus**

Given widespread concern over declines in pollinator populations, many landowners want to convert lawn areas into wildflower meadows that provide safe habitat for bees and other beings; however, establishing a wildflower meadow takes skill, time, and effort. Dr. Neal guides us through the process from start to finish, considering everything from the best options for killing existing vegetation before seeding, through best planting practices and appropriate seed/species mixes, to maintenance during and after establishment. With proper care, a meadow will become a long-term, low-impact landscape component, providing beauty, connecting people with nature, and providing excellent habitat for pollinators.



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WEDNESDAY March 4, 2020 Intensive Sessions

## UNDERSTANDING SOIL FROM MICRO TO MACRO (Room 163 C)

**9:00–10:30am**

### **Respecting the Soil: Research and Results from the Field**

**Mark Highland**, *Organic Mechanics Soil Company*

Soil is the base of every landscape, and yet soil problems frequently contribute to plant stress and/or failure post installation. Whether you are designing landscapes from scratch or rehabilitating soils in established landscapes, this session has “the dirt” you are looking for. Mr. Highland will discuss Best Management Practices to maximize soil biological and physical properties - before, during, and after a landscape installation. This session will also cover soil amendments that help alleviate soil compaction and improve biological activity.

**11:00am–12:30pm**

### **Designing and Implementing Urban Ecologies Part 1: Urban Soils Through the Lens of Urban Forestry**

**Michael Ormston-Holloway**, *The Planning Partnership*

Mr. Ormston-Holloway will frame the current state of urban forestry through his professional path to landscape architect, urban ecologist, and urban forester. He will discuss misconceptions in common arboricultural practices, as well as the importance and potential of trees in the urban landscape and the reasons good stewardship matters.

**2:00–3:30pm**

### **Evaluating Soil with the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH)**

**Kirsten Kurtz**, *Cornell University*

Soil health has become something of a buzz word in the past few years, but many are unfamiliar with what soil health means. Ms. Kurtz will discuss big-picture issues including characteristics of healthy soil as well as the global importance of soil health in the face of increased soil degradation. Additionally, she will explore quantifying soil health through laboratory analyses included in the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) and will address management strategies for improving and maintaining soil health under different cropping systems.

**4:00pm–5:30pm**

### **Designing and Implementing Urban Ecologies Part 2: Landscape Diagnostics Through Case Studies**

**Michael Ormston-Holloway**, *The Planning Partnership*

The world of development in dense urban cores of large cities is a difficult place these days to establish a healthy urban forest. We need to begin with healthy and unimpeded soil volumes, a requirement that is proving to be more and more difficult to meet. Mr. Ormston-Holloway will discuss contemporary ideas and methods toward establishing the urban forest amid constraints of urban development and various stakeholders. This presentation will consider a broad range of projects, including the establishment of a new neighborhood and urban forest on a severely contaminated brownfield site and the re-establishment of a dramatic urban forest devastated by a tornado.





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## THURSDAY March 5, 2020 Conference Sessions

### DESIGN PRESENTATIONS (Auditorium)

**9:00–10:30am**

#### **What Do You Mean You're Not a Perennial? Native Shrubs Managed as Cut-Backs**

*Dan Jaffe, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary*

We don't normally think of cutting back shrubs. We occasionally prune, but cutting these plants back to the ground seems counter-intuitive and, and yet, for select species, treating shrubs as cut-backs can offer advantages not found in the herbaceous perennial spectrum or options for the same species left uncut." From ensuring the brightest stems on your red twig dogwood to hydrangeas under drip lines with heavy snow loads, there are some unique uses for shrubby cutbacks. Mr. Jaffe explores new ways to use woody species.

**11:00am–12:30pm**

#### **Designing with Ferns: the Dependable and the Divisive**

*Leslie Duthie, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary*

New England is home to over 70 different species of ferns. Leaving ferns out of your garden plans is to miss a lovely assortment of foliage, forms, and color. Ferns are tough and adaptable plants; many will thrive under a wide range of conditions. Learn about the diversity among ferns and how to use these plants in the garden. Although Ms. Duthie will focus on garden-worthy species, she will discuss the uses of some of the more aggressive species as well. She will also introduce fern terminology and basic fern biology - they reproduce by spores. Discover the important ecological role of ferns in the landscape and how they are affected by mammal populations and soil conditions.

**2:00–3:30pm**

#### **A Stick in the Spokes: Intervening with Regenerative Approaches**

*Laura Kuhn, Laura Kuhn Design Consultation*

Regenerative design depends on a feedback web of

many processes for life to renew and restore. On the other hand, even ecologically-informed maintenance of private property usually involves some intervention to arrest succession, maintain access, and preserve other essential functions. How do we embrace principles of regenerative design on private land parcels where functional needs preclude true rewilding? What happens when we invite and then interrupt the feedback loop in some aspects of a place, but not in others? We'll review transformations of different sized local properties and explore how we can maximize ecological benefits for our natural and social communities when our loftiest goals may be out of reach. Projects will include a small urban wild near the "Mass Pike," a barrier beach restoration where wind dominates, the partial-rewilding of a suburban McMansion, a transformed agricultural parcel, and others.

**4:00–5:30pm**

#### **Creating Outdoor Spaces that Connect Children to the Natural World**

*Nancy Striniste, EarlySpace, LLC*

Nature play can awaken children's senses, challenge their bodies, inspire their imaginations, and build self-confidence. In order to grow up healthy and happy, children need abundant unstructured time to play and explore in the natural world, but today's children rarely have the opportunity to roam free outside. Bringing nature to the places where children spend their time is an answer. Well-designed nature play spaces are inviting and endlessly engaging for children AND good for the planet. With rich, inspiring images from around the world, author, educator, and landscape designer Nancy Striniste explains why and how to bring the beauty, adventure, and sustainability of nature play to backyards, schoolyards, churchyards, neighborhood parks, early childhood settings, and more.



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## THURSDAY March 5, 2020 Conference Sessions

### PRACTICES (Room 163C)

**9:00–10:30am**

#### **Why Rain Gardens and Bioretention Facilities Fail and Tools for Success**

**Steven Torgerson**, *AMT Landscape Architecture and Design Division*

Rain impacts each of our lives. Past generations developed methods that quickly whisk the rain from roofs, roads, and plazas on its journey to the ocean. The contemporary stormwater model features the design and installation of landscapes that mimic nature, capturing, storing, and infiltrating the water close to its source. Rain gardens and bioretention facilities are two practices in the green infrastructure toolbox, and they are often the first choices for designers, contractors, public agencies, and landowners due to their relatively low cost, large stormwater treatment capacity, and perceived ease of installation. However, complaints ranging from unsightly weedy holes to mosquito-breeding water can leave agencies and landowners wishing for another stormwater alternative. With appropriate planning, design, construction, and maintenance, these stormwater treatment workhorses can be an artistic part of our landscapes, gardens, streetscapes, and public spaces.

**11:00am–12:30pm**

#### **Field Notes: A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward**

**Trevor Smith**, *Land Escapes Design*

Trevor Smith has taken his 20 years of field experience as a regenerative landscape designer and entrepreneur and compiled *Field Notes* that offer a unique approach to land care. Part professional development, part personal development, *Field Notes* takes a stripped-down look at the human element in the landscape. Through personal stories and observations of hundreds of installed projects, Mr. Smith covers a broad range of topics, including regenerative design, green infrastructure, adaptive strategies in the face of climate change, the importance of maintaining your own health and well being, and ways to challenge the norms in pursuit of authentic results.

**2:00–3:30pm**

#### **What's Growing on at Monticello?**

Creating a 21st-century Model for Diversified, Experimental Agriculture, and Land Stewardship on Thomas Jefferson's Land

**Keith Nevison**, *Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello*

Big changes are coming soon to Monticello! In the years ahead, we are developing an innovative farming center highlighting Thomas Jefferson's connection to food, farming, and civic agriculture. Learn about our goal of connecting guests to a national farm model for regenerative agriculture, a landscape that simultaneously supports diverse crop enterprises and ecological restoration goals. Monticello Center for Food and Farming will involve academic partnerships and public programming to educate people on the challenges and opportunities facing American agriculture today. A major focus will consider how Jefferson's horticultural pursuits and experiments in the garden have relevance to issues faced today, from addressing climate change to promoting native plants and healthy habitats.

**4:00–5:30pm**

#### **The Challenges and Complexities of Ecological Gardens: A 5-year Journal of Discoveries**

**Lori Silvia**, *St. George's School*

Take a five year photographic journey through one of the largest ecological and bio-diverse built landscapes in Rhode Island: St. George's School. Ms. Silvia will share the process, challenges, and discoveries she has made while managing concept, design, installation, plants, and daily maintenance of the landscape. Broader philosophical questions regarding the landscapes' evolution will also be considered. Ms. Silvia's passion for and dedication to this project will be obvious and honest, and her photographs will reflect her intimate daily involvement throughout the entire process of developing St. George's landscape.



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## THURSDAY March 5, 2020 Conference Sessions

### IDEA EXCHANGES (Room 162)

**9:00–10:30am**

#### **Adaptation for an Unpredictable Future – Can Plants Meet the Challenge?**

**Moderator:** Mark Richardson

**Panelists:** Michael Piantedosi, Uli Lorimer, and TBD

What do plants need to survive not just for the next season or two, but for successive years that may be characterized by the extreme variability of changing climate. Find out whether there are genetic modifications, grower interventions, and resiliency strategies for designed landscapes that will result in plants and plantings destined to survive the test of time.

**11:00am–12:30pm**

#### **Native Plants: Sourcing, Establishing, Maintaining**

**Moderator:** Heather Heimarck

**Panelists:** Geovani Aguilar, Marie Chieppo, Dan Jaffe, John Kinchla, Darryl Newman, and Theresa Sprague

As we extol the virtues of native plants, how do we ensure a positive experience for the client who invests in native material? Representing native plant propagators, growers, and designers, our panelists consider strategies for success with native plants from selecting the right species, to optimizing conditions for establishment in the landscape, to managing long-term maintenance.

**2:00–3:30pm**

#### **Enhancing the Edibility of Northeast Landscapes with Native Species**

**Russ Cohen & Georgia Hann**

Edible plants heighten enjoyment of every landscape, and their edible characteristics can provide a powerful incentive for people to plant them. Learn to identify native edible plants and discover the benefits accrued from making room for edibles. Discover the comestible qualities of at least two dozen species of edible wild plants native to the ecoregions of the Northeast. Mr. Cohen and Ms. Hann will provide keys to the identification of each species, along with descriptions of edible portions, seasons of availability, preparation methods, and guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging. Samples of foraged goodies made from edible native species will be available for tasting. (This session taught in conjunction with the next session in this room.)

**4:00–5:30pm**

#### **Propagating Native Edible Plants from Seed and Adding Them to Landscapes – a Hands-on Session**

**Russ Cohen & Georgia Hann**

Try your hand at sowing and processing native seed for local edibles and take home your freshly-potted seeds. Learn techniques for successful propagation from Mr. Cohen and Ms. Hann who share their expertise in collecting or otherwise obtaining seeds, storing seeds, sowing, and growing seeds into larger plants. They will also discuss how to determine which species are appropriate to plant in which locations and provide advice to help ensure the survival of the plants once planted. Samples of foraged goodies made from edible native species will be available for tasting. [This session limited to 35 hands-on participants and taught in conjunction with the previous session in this room. Others may observe.]





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## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Wednesday & Thursday  
March 4 & 5, 2020

Early Registration, Member or Group Discounts are valid through **February 25th. Sign up today!**

Discounts available for ELA members and groups of three or more. Only one discount per person applies. Become an ELA member on this form and receive an immediate member discount.

**\*\*\*Visit [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org) to register online or to download the registration form for mailing\*\*\***

Enter Name as it should appear on Conference Name Badge.	Company/Organization Affiliation	ELA member (Yes/No)
Name:		
Email:	Contact Address:	
Home Phone:	Business Phone:	

**NOTE:** Group discount is the same as the member pricing when three or more register as a group. Complete one form per group member.

Offerings	Member Before 2/25	Member After 2/25	Non-Member Before 2/25	Non-Member After 2/25	Amount Due
3/4 Breakfast with Eco-Experts – Ticketed separately	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$
3/4 Sessions	\$145	\$200	\$170	\$235	\$
3/4 Sessions with Keynote Dinner	\$195	\$270	\$230	\$320	\$
3/4 Keynote Dinner Only	\$ 85	\$115	\$100	\$135	\$
3/5 Breakfast with Eco-Experts – Ticketed separately	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$
3/5 Sessions Only	\$145	\$200	\$170	\$235	\$
3/4 and 3/5 Sessions Only	\$230	\$320	\$270	\$375	\$
3/5 Sessions with Keynote Dinner on 3/4	\$195	\$270	\$230	\$320	\$
3/4 and 3/5 Sessions with 3/4 Keynote Dinner	\$280	\$390	\$330	\$460	\$

**Full-Time Student Registration** *No other discounts apply. Enclose a copy of student ID with registration & present ID at conference.*

Full-Time Student, 3/4 Sessions – \$85	\$
Full-Time Student, 3/5 Sessions – \$85	\$
Full-Time Student, Keynote Dinner 3/4 Only – \$60	\$

**ELA Membership—Join or Renew** *ELA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; membership fees and donations are tax-deductible*

Join or Renew ELA membership at Company Level – \$250	\$
Join or Renew ELA membership at Professional Level – \$100	\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$</b>

### Members Only

Do include me in the online “Find an Eco-Pro” Directory (place check in box)	
Do include me in the Membership Networking Directory (place check in box)	

### Information Sharing

Don't share my contact info with other organizations (place check in box)	
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**FOR INFORMATION,** call (617) 436-5838 or visit [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org).

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ELA** and return with this form to: ELA Conference, P.O. Box 3, Sandown, NH 03873.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** refund requests must be received prior to February 25, 2020. A \$60 handling fee will be deducted.

No refunds will be made after that date unless the Event is cancelled. For recorded cancellation info, call (617) 436-5838.

**DISCLAIMER:** ELA is a facilitation organization. Responsibility for the information and any views expressed lies entirely with the participating company or individual expressing that information or view. The views expressed or products offered by participating companies or individuals do not necessarily reflect the official position of ELA and are not necessarily endorsed by ELA or its sponsors.

**CONSENT, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND RELEASE:** When you enter the ELA Conference, you will be entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur. By registering and attending the event, you:

1. Consent to the use of photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction for news, webcasts, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on websites, or any other purpose by ELA and its affiliates and representatives without payment/royalties or inspection/approval of materials;
2. Waive any claims you may have arising out of such activities; and
3. You release ELA, its officers and employees, and each and all persons involved from any liability connected with the taking, recording, digitizing, or publication of photographs, computer images, video and/or sound recordings.

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## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Russ Cohen** served as Rivers Advocate for the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration until his retirement in June of 2015. Since then he has pursued his passion for connecting with nature via his taste buds and teaching others to do the same. Mr. Cohen conducts numerous wild edible walks and talks throughout the Northeast and is now propagating edibles native to Northeast ecoregions. He is partnering with land trusts, municipalities, state and federal agencies, schools and colleges, tribal groups, and others to introduce his nursery plants to their properties. Mr. Cohen is the author of a foraging book, *Wild Plants I have Known... and Eaten*, published in 2004 and now in its seventh printing.

**Leslie Duthie** is a lifelong gardener. She was formerly employed at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary where she was the horticulturist and plant propagator for over 38 years. An accomplished grower of ferns and wildflowers, Leslie's love of ferns began when she first learned how to raise them from spore. Now retired, she continues to volunteer at various gardens and works to protect land for her local Conservation Commission and land trust.

**Georgia Hann** is a professional plantswoman with specific interest in the ecosystems of the New England coastline and beyond. Born in Chatham, MA and raised in Mystic, Connecticut. Ms. Hann studied Environmental and Conservation Biology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts for three years. She worked in the farming and landscaping industries in Connecticut and Rhode Island until seeking a degree in Botany at Connecticut College in New London, which she earned in 2018. Ms Hann now operates a professional

gardening company and works as a tree specialist. She intends to expand as a native seed-grown plant retailer fit to serve both homeowners and those carrying out habitat restoration projects.

**Mark Highland** It was on a beautiful piece of Illinois farmland that Mark Highland pushed his first shovel into garden soil. After he "grew up," Mark focused his MS degree studies in the Longwood Graduate Program on compost and potting soil. After completing the Longwood program, Mr. Highland started The Organic Mechanics Soil Company, LLC in 2006 and has served as President since that time. He has consulted for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Mr. Highland is the author of the recently published *Practical Organic Gardening: The No-Nonsense Guide to Growing Naturally*.

**Dan Jaffe** Photographer and author Dan Jaffe has over ten years of experience with ecological horticulture. He is a propagator of native species, the photographer and co-author of *Native Plants for New England Gardens*, and a lecturer on numerous topics, including pollinators, sustainable landscape practices, foraging, cultivation of edible species, and low-maintenance horticulture. He has developed a native plant horticultural database and has years of nursery management experience. Mr. Jaffe earned a degree in botany from the University of Maine, Orono and has an advanced certificate in Native Plant Horticulture and Design from Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wild Flower Society). He is the Horticulturist and Propagator for Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, Massachusetts and is currently building his own home-scale homestead, growing and foraging numerous edible species, preserving and

cooking whenever possible, and raising small animals.

**Jennifer Jewell** is the creator, writer, and host of Cultivating Place, an award-winning public radio program and podcast on natural history and the human impulse to garden. She learned how and why to garden from her mother and learned to love the diversity and interconnectedness of all life from her wildlife biologist father. Traveling the world and reading, gardening, and hiking wherever she was, Ms. Jewell was inspired by the generous and smart plant and garden people she met. She has been writing about gardens and horticulture since 1998, and her work has appeared in *Gardens Illustrated*, *House & Garden*, *Pacific Horticulture*, and other magazines. Her first book, *The Earth in Her Hands* (Timber Press, 2020), profiles 75 extraordinary women working in the world of plants and transforming horticulture around the world.

**Laura Kuhn** is a self-taught designer, who brought her experiences in theatre arts and choreography to the design of outdoor spaces in 1997. After initially working in the nursery business, she started her own business in 2000. Laura Kuhn Design Consultation creates custom artistic and wild spaces for private clients in the New England region and beyond. Ms. Kuhn offers services in landscape design strategy and restoration; project coordination and construction; oversight for urban oases, small parcels, estate gardens, and rural landscapes; edible gardens; and outdoor dining spaces. Her certifications include MCH, MCLP, and NOFA AOLCP. She currently serves on MNLA's Government Relations Committee. In the past, she enjoyed

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# Sustaining the Living Landscape

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace  
March 4 & 5, 2020 at the UMass Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center, Amherst, MA



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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serving as Advocacy Chair for the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD), serving on the MCLP certification committee for Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professionals, and most of all, teaching at the Landscape Institute.

**Kirsten Kurtz** is the Manager for the Cornell Soil Health Lab with responsibilities in lab management, research, communication, teaching, and outreach. She has more than eight years of experience working with Soil Health Assessments. Before joining the Lab, Ms. Kurtz worked extensively with various Finger Lakes wineries and vineyards and co-owned a small organic farm, thus accumulating valuable agricultural and scientific knowledge. She is a co-author of the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH), the Cornell Framework Manual Version 3.2. She is the co-author on the Cornell Soil Health Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures, guest lecturer for a wide range of Cornell University classes, and developer of lab modules focused on soil health at Cornell University and elsewhere. Ms. Kurtz is also the founder of the Soil Painting Initiative, which utilizes soil painting as a form of scientific communication.

**Pennington Marchael** is a landscape contractor based in Brooklyn and Bedford Hills, New York. Throughout his career he has cultivated a deep understanding of horticulture and ecology, which he uses to execute successfully vibrant landscapes. Mr. Marchael has over ten years of experience in project management, landscape construction, and maintenance. In those ten years, he has installed and maintained meadows

from Virginia to Northern New York with a total of over one hundred fifty acres installed and many more maintained and monitored. His present focus is growing his business, Pennington Grey, where he aspires to train a new generation of land managers who will lead the landscape industry away from traditional practices and toward a more sustainable and dynamic approach.

**Michael Nadeau** has been intrigued by and working in the landscape and tree business since the age of 12. With a great respect of Nature, Michael was an early proponent of sustainability and worked with NOFA to develop the first-ever Standards for Organic Land Care and the Organic Land Care Accreditation Course which he also teaches. Mr. Nadeau (and his brother, Dan) co-founded Plantscapes Organics, Inc. in 1982. A few years ago, he retired from that business and went on to create Wholistic Land Care Consulting, LLC, a nature-based landscape consulting firm, where he continues to learn from Nature. With more than three decades of Nature-based landscape experience, Michael is passionate about educating land care stewards about the overdependence on synthetic chemicals, the environmental consequences of their use, and natural alternatives for land management.

**Dr. Cathy Neal** recently completed a twenty-year career as Landscape Horticulture Specialist and Extension Professor emeritus with University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension. During her career, she worked closely with commercial horticulture clientele in the state to maintain professionalism in the green industry and to encourage sustainable practices and designs. She is well known for her educational leadership in landscaping for water quality and in

planting for pollinators; she has published many fact sheets and articles on related topics. As an active researcher with NH Agricultural Experiment Station, she conducted many trials leading to the development of recommended seed mixes and strategies for creating beautiful and diverse wildflower meadows in New England. Dr. Neal continues to work part time to help private and public landowners establish wildflower meadows and pollinator habitat.

**Keith Nevison** serves as Manager of Farm and Nursery Operations for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. In this role, he oversees a thriving nursery business at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants and is working to successfully launch a 21st century center for innovative farming, which aims to engage a broad audience in discussion on food, public health, and regenerative agricultural issues. Mr. Nevison earned his MS in Public Horticulture from the University of Delaware through the Longwood Graduate Program and his BS cum laude in Environmental Studies from Portland State University, Oregon. For 15 years, his work has included landscape management, organic food production, nursery horticulture, and ecological restoration.

**Michael Ormston-Holloway** works as a landscape and urban ecologist, as well as certified arborist, with over 15-years of experience working in these related fields. He specializes in the urban environment, integrating the experience of thoughtful landscape design with the importance of functional ecological systems and working toward better connections with people and their natural environments. Mr. Ormston-Holloway integrates design and

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ecological principles into his projects and enriches them with insights as an arborist, horticulturist, and soil scientist. He believes that joining a detailed understanding of the biotic realm of landscape architecture with a strong understanding of planting design ensures a more valuable landscape experience. Mr. Ormston-Holloway has a unique perspective on water in the urban context and is regularly promoting projects with a greater application of LID principles, both water-related and otherwise.

**Lori Silvia** has a BFA from Mass College of Art & Design and graduated from The Landscape Institute, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. A collaboration of art, landscape design, science, and intuition is part of her vision. She has been a landscape designer and gardener at St. George's School since 2008, creating LEED-certified ecological designs for the newly-built Hill Library and Academic Center and renovating nearly every corner of the campus in some way. Ms. Silvia is dedicated to experiential learning and lectures to students and the greater community.

**Trevor Smith** is the owner of Land Escapes, a full service regenerative landscape design and build company based in the Boston area. Land Escapes specializes in green stormwater infrastructure, such as permeable pavers and rain gardens, as well as in landscapes designed to maximize Earth's systems while balancing them with the needs and desires of her human inhabitants. Mr. Smith is equally driven by both the form and function of his landscape designs. He is passionate about the natural world which inspires his commitment to ecological principles

and practices and devoted to creating beautiful landscapes that provide clients with an oasis to reconnect with the natural world. Mr. Smith holds several landscape certifications, including MCH, NOFA AOLCP, LEEDGA, and IPCI, and he is also a past President of the Ecological Landscape Alliance and a current Trustee.

**Nancy Striniste**, founder and principal designer at EarlySpace, LLC, has a unique background as both a landscape designer and an early childhood educator. From her Arlington, Virginia design office, she has worked with schools, childcare centers, municipalities, and organizations to create sustainably designed natural play and learning spaces and to teach educators and others about how to use the outdoors for teaching and learning.

**Steven Torgerson** is a Registered Landscape Architect and the Director of Landscape Architecture at AMT Landscape Architecture + Design Division. He has nationwide experience in planning and design within an ecologically resilient framework and is passionate about creating spaces that are a catalyst for people to interact with their environment and community. Mr. Torgerson's multidisciplinary design approach encourages alternative solutions to complex rainwater problems. He delights in community engagement and the opportunity to integrate public preferences into the design outcome. Before coming to AMT, Mr. Torgerson served as the Cultural Landscape Architect at Yosemite National Park and was the lead landscape architect for the Forest Service during the 2002 Winter Olympics. He has won numerous awards for his work in landscape architecture including the 2018 ASLA Potomac Chapter Honor Award for Brookside

Gardens and the 2017 ASLA, Potomac Chapter Honor Award for Greening DC's Streetscapes. Mr. Torgerson holds a Master in Landscape Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University with an emphasis in watershed planning and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Utah State University.