

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

December 2019



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

## From the Editor

I'd never seen a birch log deer until I moved to New England, but I loved the beautiful bark coats sported by those winter herds. When a birch tree fell in my yard last winter, I finally made time to assemble my own deer. Inherent in the project was the satisfaction of using materials provided by the landscape. As with any good project, deer construction turned into a family affair; the result was a whimsical solstice deer that we can enjoy for a season before she returns to the woods.

ELA has enjoyed a little whimsy with our 500th member "contest." Look for the big reveal of our "winner" in this issue of the newsletter. In a more serious vein, we also present two articles with green infrastructure focus as prelude to the [NGICP training](#) scheduled for the end of February. And we learn about the design for a community garden in Boston and find a review recommending a new pollinator resource. As the days grow darker, I hope you enjoy your own bit of whimsy. Best wishes for the new year. MPS



### More Than a Rain Garden: Green Infrastructure Addresses Environmental Problems Across Scales

by Kate Cholakis and Seth Charde

Green infrastructure is trending, achieving buzzword status within the fields of civil engineering, landscape architecture, city planning, and climate resiliency. Professionals in these fields might use this term to describe a rain garden, green roof, or plant-based sewage treatment plant. The term might also be used to describe a forested city park, restored urban stream corridor, or expanded coastal marsh. These strategies share the connecting thread of water management. [Read the article.](#)



### Tools to Help Landscape Professionals Tackle Climate Change: An Ongoing Challenge

by Amanda Sloan

Many landscape professionals realize they are in a unique position both to notice changes to the local environment resulting from greenhouse gas emissions and to propose and enact creative solutions to counteract those changes. In 2018, ELA began discussing what kinds of practical tools could be developed and promulgated to help landscape professionals transition to methods that do not cause greenhouse gas emissions. Subsequently, the ELA's Carbon Working Group was formed. [Read the article.](#)



## An Urban Oasis Designed with Community in Mind

by Jennifer Kimball

At the end of a block of brick row houses in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston sit four abandoned lots overgrown with shoulder high weeds. Six raised garden beds speak to the desire of area residents to reclaim this space and to build a community garden in their neighborhood. Those lots are now poised to become a new public green space that will provide residents of all ages a place to gather, attend public performances, enjoy nature, and grow their own food. [Read the article.](#)

## PROTECTING POLLINATORS

*How to Save the Creatures That Feed Our World*



JODI HELMER

### Book Review

## Protecting Pollinators - How to Save the Creatures That Feed Our World

Written by Jodi Helmer

Reviewed by Nanette Masi

Protecting Pollinators by Jodi Helmer is a must-read for anyone interested in learning more about the myriad small and amazing creatures so crucial to our survival as a species. Reading the book is like having a dear friend share with you all the fascinating things she's learned about pollinators, then placing all her resources at your fingertips. [Read the review.](#)



## Growing Green Infrastructure

by Leslie Nemo

As cities' interest in green infrastructure grows, so does the need to develop strategies and resources to maintain it. Urban projects designed to manage stormwater promise huge benefits as climate changes - but they also demand a new kind of care.

[Read the article.](#)

Trevor Smith presents a week-long green infrastructure training course February 24-28 at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. Find out more about the [National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#).



## Congratulations to ELA's 500th Member

by Maureen Sundberg

In November, ELA was getting close to welcoming our 500th member and decided to celebrate that milestone. We hoped to get to 500 before the end of the year. Thanks to your amazing support, we surged past our goal of 500 members and can announce our winner! [Read the article.](#)

## Our Conference Sponsors



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### ELA News

#### New Event in 2020

ELA has a new collaboration with Tower Hill Botanic Garden on February 6. Be sure to check details about the [Urban Tree Symposium: The Future of the Urban Forest](#).



#### Thank You to Our Fall Conference Sponsors

ELA appreciates the sponsors who supported our two fall conferences in the Mid-Atlantic and New York.

#### Mid-Atlantic Conference

~ [New Moon Nursery](#) ~ [Organic Mechanics Soil Company](#) ~ [Kind Earth Growers](#) ~  
~ [Tech Terra Environmental](#) ~ [Babikow Greenhouses](#) ~ [Izel Plants](#) ~

#### Ecological Plant Conference

[Atlantic Nurseries](#) ~ [Pennington Grey](#) ~ [Hoffmans Nursery](#) ~ [North Creek Nurseries](#)



#### February 24-28: National Green Infrastructure Certification Program

The National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) sets national certification standards for green infrastructure (GI) construction, inspection, and maintenance workers. In collaboration with ELA, Trevor Smith offers a 5-day, 35-hour NGICP course that provides graduates the skillset needed to design green stormwater infrastructure and to oversee construction, inspection, and maintenance of these projects. A class is scheduled the week of February 24 at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. [Find more information and register.](#)

## Enjoy Great Winter Webinar Viewing!

A [Focus on Sustainability](#) webinar series continues into March. Remember that your ELA membership gives you free access to upcoming as well as archived webinars, including the nine-part Introduction to Ecological Landscaping conducted in Spanish. Find a list of all free webinars by logging on your [Member Page](#).



## December 18: Let Us Hear from You

Don't have time to volunteer, but have ideas for programs ELA should offer? Give ELA a call during volunteer virtual coffee on the third Wednesday of the month any time between 12:30 and 1:00 to share your ideas. To receive the call-in number, email: [ela\\_new @verizon.net](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net).



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## Our Advertisers



New Directions in the American Landscape ([NDAL](#)) will hold an intensive two-day natural design workshop developed by Larry Weaner on Feb. 3-4 in Pomfret Center, CT, as well as three other locations. 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. Registration is now OPEN - for more details, view our [digital brochure](#).

## Gleanings

### Closing the Water Gap

A new report from the US Water Alliance, in partnership with DigDeep and Michigan State University, analyzes water and sanitation access challenges in the United States, proposes a plan of action, and showcases promising approaches to securing water access for communities. Read the report: [Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States: A National Action Plan](#). Find a [National Framework](#) and more information about the [Water Equity Taskforce](#).



### Uncovering the Seeds of a Post-Lawn Future

Two artists are on a mission to replace the monoculture of the turf lawn with "leafy green goodness" from seeds lying dormant in the soil. Read more at [CityLab](#).



### Could Abandoned Agricultural Lands Help Save the Planet?

As the number and intensity of storm events increase, the Rhode Island Green Infrastructure Coalition is partnering with the city of Providence to create a Stormwater Innovation Center at Roger Williams Park. [Find out more in EcoRI News](#).



## Opportunities for Grants

### MassTrails Grants

Grant funds available for design, project development, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails, shared-use pathways, and the amenities that support trails. Deadline for application: Feb. 1, 2020. Information and online submission form [here](#).



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

[Become a Member!](#)



### [Highstead Foundation: Strategic Communications Director](#) West Redding, CT

Highstead, an innovative and influential leader in conservation, is seeking an accomplished and collaborative communications professional to serve as their new Strategic Communications Director. Since its founding in 1982, Highstead has focused on improving the quality of life for nature and society.

The Strategic Communications Director, as part of the senior leadership team, will develop and implement strategies to articulate, communicate, and grow Highstead's land conservation, science, and stewardship programs to advance the Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative. S/he will lead a collaborative effort to restructure the small communications team and advance the reach for Highstead, its many partner organizations, and Wildlands and Woodlands.

[Learn more about the position and apply.](#)

### [Full/Part Time Gardener for Perfect Earth Project "Eco Classroom" Property](#) East Hampton, NY

Gardener/Property Manager, part time (with full time opportunities), year-round, needed for 4 acre all organic residence in Springs, East Hampton, NY. Property contains native shrub and tree plantings, meadows, mixed borders, vegetables, cutting flowers, and an oyster farm in a relaxed "natural" state where owner (landscape designer/environmental activist) experiments with, displays, and teaches new ideas and thinking in nature.

[Learn more about the position and apply.](#)

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

### December

December 17 - [Rain Gardens for Residents on Aquidneck Island](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:30pm ET.

### January 2020

January 6-February 14 - [UMass Winter School for Turf Managers](#); Amherst, MA; times vary.

January 9-10 - [The Culture-Ecology Bond: Perspectives for Landscape Designers](#); Bryn Mawr, PA.

January 10 - [Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart seminar in Japanese garden arts, Level 1](#) (application opens); Portland, OR. Event runs June 8-14, 2020.

January 15 [ELA Webinar→Reconnecting Water, Soils, and Vegetation: Green Infrastructure in the Environment](#); 12:30-1:30pm ET.

January 16-17 - [The Culture-Ecology Bond: Perspectives for Landscape Designers](#); New London, CT.

January 16-February 6 - [Botany for Gardeners](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 10:00am-12:00pm.

January 23 [ELA Webinar→The Role of Landscape in Our Global Environmental Crisis](#); 12:30-1:30pm ET.

January 23 - [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay; several locations and times.

## **February**

- February 1 - [With an Eye Towards Nature: A Japanese Garden Intensive](#) (application opens); Portland, OR. Event runs April 25-27, 2020.
- February 6 **ELA Symposium**→[Urban Tree Symposium: The Future of the Urban Forest](#); Boylston, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.
- February 10 **ELA Webinar**→[Conservation, Education, and Community Building through Prairie Restoration](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.
- February 12-March 18 - [Ecological Landscape Design](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 1:00pm-4:00pm.
- February 22 **ELA Class**→[Seeing Is Believing - A Visual Garden Design Workshop](#); Framingham, MA 10:30am-3:00pm.
- February 24-28 **ELA Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#); Boylston, MA.
- February 28 **ELA Class**→[Cultivating Your Plant Communities](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.

## **March**

- March 4-5 [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#); UMass Amherst, MA.
- March 6-27 - [Enhancing Life in the Soil](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 10:00am-2:30pm.
- March 8 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Bristol, RI.
- March 10 - [Waza to Kokoro: Hands and Heart seminar in Japanese garden arts, Level 1](#) (application opens); Portland, OR. Event runs August 24-30, 2020.
- March 23 - **ELA Webinar**→[Protecting Pollinators](#); 12:30-1:30pm ET.

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](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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