

November 2019



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

## From the Editor

During this season of giving thanks, we thank our ELA members and supporters who have made it possible for the organization to continue growing and offering a broad range of programs throughout the year. We host our last seasonal event - [The Ecological Plant Conference](#) - in Brooklyn, NY on December 6. Also with your generous support, ELA's new website went live in 2019. Website improvements combined with rolling membership allow ELA to welcome new members throughout the year, and our membership numbers have climbed!

We hope to welcome our **500th member** in the next few weeks. To celebrate this substantial milestone, we are offering a free professional membership, ELA T-shirt, and ELA cap to our 500th active member (new or renewing).

If you have been an ELA member but are not sure if your membership is current, log on to your ELA account to find your [Member Page](#) - you'll see either the date your membership expires, or a button to "Re-subscribe." If you've never been a member, now's a great time to [join](#).

We hope to announce the name of our 500th member next month. Until then, enjoy both the season of thanks giving and this issue of the newsletter. *MPS*

Become ELA's 500<sup>th</sup> member



Receive a free Professional Level Membership



## Season in Review

### A Year of Growing in Gravel

by Ben O'Brien

Inspired by the success of European horticulturists who experimented with planting low maintenance perennial plant communities in gravel, the author began his own trials in 2018. This past season he had the opportunity to plant pilot gardens and record their performance through the 2019 growing season. After documenting the weed-free and beautiful results, he's now a fully converted gravel gardener. [Read the article.](#)



## Behold the Magic of Warm-Season Grasses

by Shannon Currey

It finally clicked. Working with grasses, I knew about the distinction between warm season and cool season. I had written about it and included it in presentations. But it took a webinar on native, warm-season grasses to understand how magical and fascinating that distinction is. [Read the article.](#)

Join Shannon at ELA's 2019 [Ecological Plant Conference](#) in Brooklyn, NY on December 6 to learn more about her work with grasses and sedges.

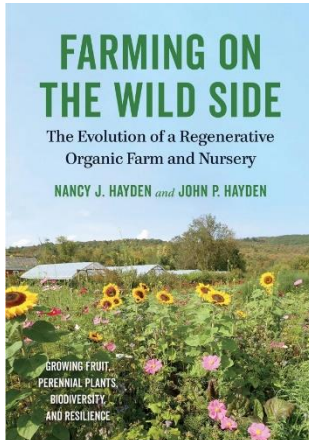


### Member Question

#### Deciduous Plantings for Winter Interest

**Contributors: Andi Pettis, Sarah Saltino, Chris Sawicki**

After autumn winds strip foliage from deciduous plantings, new colors, shapes, and textures gain prominence in the landscape as berries, bark, and seed heads gain visibility. We invited a few ELA members to comment on plants they especially appreciate in the winter. [Read the article.](#)



### Book Review

#### Farming on the Wild Side

**Written by Nancy J. Hayden and John P. Hayden**

**Reviewed by Lucy Birkett**

*Farming on the Wild Side* chronicles, in a most delightful and humble way, the progression of a small organic farm in northern Vermont. An entomologist and an environmental engineer make nurturing biodiversity a top priority as they transform an old dairy farm into a productive, thriving, diversified farm teeming with life. The entire book is interspersed with moments of poignant philosophical wisdom, and ecology is everywhere. [Read the review.](#)



### Local Ecotypes - What's Your Interest?

Landscape clients and home gardeners are increasingly interested in native plants, but are all native plants equally beneficial in the landscape? "Local ecotype" native plants, those cultivated in environmental conditions similar to their local source, offer certain advantages. What is your interest in local ecotype plants? [Read the article and take our survey.](#)



### Eco-Answers from the Pros

#### How Clean Should Fall Cleanup Be?

As I begin fall cleanup in my gardens, what are your recommendations? Should I clean beds off, cutting foliage and remaining seed heads off? Are there some plants best cut off and others that are good to leave until spring? Also, should I remove leaves entirely from the ground around plants? I didn't get all the leaves removed from beds last year and had a lot of damage to plant roots from either voles or moles.

[Read the Pros' 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](mailto:ela_new@verizon.net).



Bunchberry *Cornus canadensis*

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**non-trade customers are welcome! [www.izelplants.com](http://www.izelplants.com)**

### ELA News

#### **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 February 24-28 at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. **[Find more information and register.](#)**



### Upcoming Events

ELA wraps up a fall season of one-day education with the **[2019 Ecological Plant Conference](#)** in Brooklyn, NY, on December 6. Join ELA and five plant masters for a day focused on plants for resilient designs.

**Enjoy Great Winter Webinar Viewing!**

If you can't make it to Brooklyn, tune in for a webinar instead! [A Focus on Sustainability](#) series webinar series continues into March. ELA members can attend new and view recorded webinars for free.

### Landscaping Basics for Spanish Speakers

Remember that your ELA membership gives you free access to archived webinars, including the nine-part Introduction to Ecological Landscaping conducted in Spanish. Find a list of all free webinars by logging into your Member Page.



### November 20: Give ELA Your Input @ Virtual Coffee Time

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



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### Native Plant Nursery - For Sale Media, PA

Redbud Native Plant Nursery, an established retail native plant nursery located in the horticultural hub of SE Pennsylvania, is looking for a successor to purchase the nursery. The facility is composed of 1.5 acres of fenced outdoor retail space, propagation area, attractive indoor retail area, and ample parking. Well-maintained inventory, beautiful plant displays, and demonstration gardens inspire new and repeat customers. The location on a heavily trafficked road links to major transportation corridors.

Redbud is turnkey ready with an excellent reputation developed over seventeen years of successful operation! Please contact Catherine Smith at [info@redbudnativeplantnursery.com](mailto:info@redbudnativeplantnursery.com) for information.



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 [ndal.org](http://ndal.org). Register for PA at [online.morrisarboretum.org/](http://online.morrisarboretum.org/)  
IDS. Register for CT at [ConnCollege.edu/the-arboretum](http://ConnCollege.edu/the-arboretum)

- CEUS AVAILABLE -

Developed by Larry Weaver Landscape Associates  
Co-sponsored by Morris Arboretum of the Univ. of Pennsylvania and  
Connecticut College Arboretum

Culture and ecology exist in a dynamic relationship: culture shapes ecology and vice versa. New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)'s 2020 conference will explore this feedback loop as it pertains to landscape design and management. The Symposium will take place in two locations: Bryn Mawr, PA on January 9-10 and New London, CT on January 16-17. See the [Symposium brochure](#) for program and registration details. Free admission will also be awarded to a select number of students/emerging professionals - see our [Student Scholarships](#) page for application details.

## Gleanings

### **The Real Case for Saving Species**

Conservationists argue that humans need to save species in order to save themselves. The truth is that we could survive without wild species - but they can't survive without us, and there is an overwhelming moral argument for protecting them and the beauty they bring to the world. [Read the article at YaleEnvironment360.](#)



### **Bird Populations Plummet**

Researchers drawing on decades of data collected on bird populations for North America report that wide-spread decline of birds over the past 50 years, resulting in the cumulative loss of billions of breeding individuals across a wide range of species and habitats. [Read more in Science.](#)



### **Are Number of Species a True Measure of Ecosystem Health?**

A controversial study has found no general decline in the number of species in individual ecosystems. Some scientists see this as evidence of how species adapt, while others see it as a sign that common invasive species, such as rats and mosquitoes, are the real winners. [Read more at YaleEnvironment360.](#)



### **Green Your Thanksgiving**

You've tipped the menu in favor of vegetables and encouraged guests to carpool. What else can you do to "green" your Thanksgiving gathering? Check these 10 tips from [Big Green Purse.](#)



### **Forests Fighting Climate Change**

Two recently released reports document the role of forests in storing carbon and mitigating climate change. Read more in [Frontiers in Forests and Global Change](#) and [Northeast Wilderness Trust.](#)



### **Conscientious Coffee Consumption**

Trying to minimize the toll of your morning coffee on the planet? Here are nine ways to lessen your environmental impact so that you can enjoy your coffee that much more. [Read the list in Sierra.](#)



### **Innovating Stormwater Management Practices**

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.](#)



### **New Threat to NE: Beech Leaf Disease**

A beech leaf disease is a new threat to native and non-native beech trees in forest and landscape settings in New England. First detected in 2012 in Ohio, the disease has spread to nearby states and Canada and was recently found in Fairfield County, CT. Find out more on [ResearchGate.](#) Read a [Fact Sheet](#) from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.



### **Ticks Remain a Threat in Cold Temps**

Although temperatures have plunged to below freezing in many parts of the U.S., blacklegged (deer) ticks are not killed by freezing temperatures and remain active when temperatures rise above freezing and they are not covered over by snow. You can find out more from the UMass webinar series: [TickTalk.](#) Refer to the University of Rhode Island [Tick Encounter.](#)



### **Seeking Dangerous Duo**

Live in New York City or visiting soon? The New York Botanic Garden has an EcoQuest challenge asking citizen scientists to look for porcelain berry and Oriental bittersweet. You can

read about the project in this [ELA Newsletter article](#) and find out more about the challenge on the [NYBG website](#).



### **Spotted Lanternfly Update**

Rhode Island remains a hold out in the spotted lanternfly invasion. [Read an update from EcoRI News](#).



**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)**

### **November**

November 1-30 - [Greenroofs & Walls Virtual Summit](#) (online).  
November 16 **ELA Class**→[Slow Gardening](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-3:00pm.  
November 19-29 - [Conservation Conference 2010](#); Baltimore, MD.  
November 21 - [UMass Extension's Fall Wrap-Up](#); Sturbridge, MA; 8:30am-3:30pm.  
November 22 - [Building Climate Resilience into Infrastructure](#); Boston, MA; 7:15-11:45am.  
November 23 [CACIWC Environmental Conference](#); 8:00am-3:30pm.

### **December**

December 3 **ELA Webinar**→[Bell's Woodland - Creating a Native Garden from Disturbed Woodland at Chanticleer](#); 12:30-1:30pm.  
December 5 - [Working Together: Collaborative Stormwater Management in Central Massachusetts](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:30pm.  
December 6 **ELA Conference**→[2019 Ecological Plant Conference: Brooklyn Botanic Gardens](#), NY; 8:30am-4:00pm.  
December 10 **ELA Webinar**→[The Wet and Wild World of Constructed Wetlands](#); 12:00-1:00pm 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 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 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.

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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