

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

February 2020



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

From the Editor

You always find first-rate speakers, passionate attendees, and dedicated sponsors and exhibitors at the [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#), and 2020 is no exception. In addition to the presentations you've come to expect, there is lots more going on! New this year, ELA will host a [seed swap](#) both days for anyone interested in sharing extra seed and picking up something different. Also, ELA's [Carbon Working group](#) will meet during lunch on Thursday to discuss actions landscape practitioners can take to mitigate rather than contribute to atmospheric CO2. And don't miss Wednesday's Keynote Dinner with Jennifer Jewell. Check the [conference brochure](#) for more detail.

Tying into the conference, articles this month shine a light on landscapes designed with children in mind and consider several perspectives on soil. If you live in Massachusetts, be sure to look for the [survey](#) related to the MA Healthy Soils Action Plan.

Note to Members - If you are attending the conference, let us know. Share your member profile on a Powerpoint slide to be displayed during lunch. Send to ela.info@comcast.net. We'll be looking for you! *MPS*



Nature Play at Home - Arranging Spaces

by Nancy Striniste

Spaces speak, especially to children. Just as the soaring ceiling of a cathedral inspires a sense of awe or a candlelit restaurant prompts us to lower our voices, the formality, informality, size, or openness of a space can tell us how to behave. As we create spaces for nature play, it is our responsibility to be mindful and intentional about the messages the space will transmit to children. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Striniste presents *Creating Outdoor Spaces that Connect Children to the Natural World* at the [ELA Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) on March 5, 2020.



Carbon Gardening: A Natural Climate Solution that Can Help Reduce CO2 Emissions While Restoring Biodiversity

by Adrian Ayres Fisher

Gardeners new to the concept of carbon gardening often ask these two questions: What good soil management strategies will help maximize carbon sequestration? And, what would be a good plant palette to help accomplish this? Good questions.

[Read the article.](#)

ELA's [Carbon Working Group](#) will be meeting on March 5, 12:30pm, at ELA's [Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#). Learn more in [ELA News](#).



Green Manure

by Robert Kourik

You say you want to garden all-naturally, but the closest source of animal manure is many miles away? Then green manuring might be for you. Green manuring is the process of tilling fresh green plants into the soil to help make it drain better and allow it to hold onto more moisture, with an added bonus - the plants, as they decay, act as a readily available fertilizer. Green manuring is also pretty darn close to free fertilizer. Learn how the natural cycle of decomposition works and you'll know exactly what part of the cycle to influence, how to speed up the natural processes, and how to improve the soil in either the short or the long term. [Read the article.](#)



What Is Soil Health?

Adapted from Cornell University Assessment of Soil Health Laboratory Soil Health Manual Series

In general, soil health and soil quality are considered synonymous and can be used interchangeably, with one key distinction conceptualized by scientists and practitioners over the last decades: soil quality includes both inherent and dynamic quality. Soil health invokes the idea that soil is an ecosystem full of life that can be carefully managed to regain and maintain optimal functioning. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Kurtz addresses soil in greater depth with *Evaluating Soil with the Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH)* at ELA's [Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) on March 4, 2020.



Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan: Overview & Survey

by Keith Zaltzberg and Jim Newman

Fall of 2020, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is scheduled to release the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan (MA HSAP), an ambitious plan seeks to protect and build the economic and ecological resilience of the Commonwealth through exceptional soil stewardship. The MA HSAP is unique in that it considers all major land use types, including forest, wetland, turf and managed greenspace, highly impervious built landscapes, and agriculture. Help the Commonwealth prepare a plan to build and protect soil resources. Your ground-level perspective on effective strategies and needed programs to support healthy landscapes, soils, and the services they provide will be essential for creating the MA HSAP. [Read the article; take the survey.](#)

Company Profiles



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With a focus on sustainable site design and water resources management, Meliora Design's capabilities have expanded to provide a wide array of services to our clients. An award-winning engineering firm, Meliora specializes in civil, structural, and water resources engineering. Our commitment to sustainability, collaboration, and innovation spans across all disciplines and projects. Meliora Design's experienced team of engineers, scientists and planners value an integrated design process for creative and cost-effective solutions.

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ELA News New at the Conference

Lunchtime Meeting of Carbon Working Group, March 5

As conference attendees, we are interested in how land practices affect ecosystems and work to make the best ecological decisions for each project site. Gathering at the ELA conference encourages us to dream even bigger!

We know that conventional land management practices contribute to the carbon problem both around the globe and right here at home. Do you have ideas about how managed land practices could be changed to mitigate climate change? Thoughts on how to make the changes happen? Conference attendees are invited to a lunchtime meeting to brainstorm and discuss this topic. Whether you are a grower, designer, farmer, contractor, teacher, student, non-profit leader, or town official, the Ecological Landscape Alliance wants to hear from you. We'll work to find the points of connection and agreement on how to manage carbon issues on our own projects and in the wider world; we'll even consider next steps.

This will be a great conversation - come and add your voice! Pick up your lunch in the Auditorium and bring it to Room 174. Our meeting will start soon after 12:30 pm.

Seed Exchange, March 4 & 5

Bring in any extra seed you have and take what you need! Please make sure your seeds are well labeled with the name of the species and where it was collected (whether that be in the wild or in a garden). We are a regional organization, so a wide definition of native is just fine. No invasive species, please! The seed swap will be located alongside the twig ID quiz in Room 165. Dan Jaffe will conduct a brief tutorial on seed collection, cleaning, and storage in the same room from 3:30-4:00 both days.

Note to ELA Members - If you are attending the conference, let us know you're there! Promote your business or organization within the ELA Community by submitting your member profile on a Powerpoint slide to be displayed during lunch. Email to ela.info@comcast.net.



Thank You to our Conference & Eco-Marketplace Exhibitors and Sponsors

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HomeWorks Energy ~ Izel Plants ~ Kind Earth Growers
MA Nursery and Landscape Association ~ OESCO, Inc (Speaker Sponsor)
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Planters' Choice Nursery (Reception Sponsor) ~ **Read Custom Soils**
Van Berkum Nursery, LLC ~ Weston Nurseries Wholesale ~ Wild Seed Project



More Courses Added for 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 skill set needed to design green stormwater infrastructure and to oversee successful construction, inspection, and maintenance of these projects.

Upcoming Classes:

February 24-28, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA

March 16-20, EJ, Prescott, Round Lake, NY

March 30-April 3, EJ Prescott, Gardiner, ME



New Classes and Eco-Tours in 2020

Find new classes and eco-tours for 2020 listed on [ELA Events](#) page. We add events frequently, so check often for new listings.



February 19: 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.



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M R Gardens: Farm/Business for Sale

Oakley community of Asheville, NC

Two-acre farm includes natives nursery/passive solar greenhouse that requires no additional heat other than solar gain, producing high quality plants. As part of our sustainable business model, we pair the nursery with complementary income streams such as agritourism, landscape design, and garden coaching. We have a year-long curriculum to train landscape professionals interested in natives/edibles. A tiny house is thriving on Airbnb, and there are spots for additional cabins and a commercial kitchen. Main residence is 2BR/1BA brick house with partly finished full basement. It's surrounded by half an acre of fruit trees, native perennials and rich vegetable beds. Contact megan@mrgardens.net or 828.333.4151 for more info about the farm sale. We're open to ideas, but prefer a buyer with a compatible mission. We're available to train new owners to ensure a smooth transition of this unique property.



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M R Gardens: Greenhouse Operator/Landscape Designer

Asheville, NC

M R Gardens aims to produce plants sustainably in a one-of-a-kind passive solar greenhouse. We primarily sell to landscape design clients. We're changing ownership so the goal is to train nursery operators so the business transition is smooth. All levels of experience can apply. Participants pay for the training and can make income the first year. The hope is that they would graduate to contractor roles.

Go to: <https://mretcllc-mrgardens.blogspot.com/2019/10/training-opportunity-passive-solar.html>.

<p>complete 850 gallon COMPOST TEA BREWER ready for set-up</p>	<p>Valued at \$4,200 Selling for \$1,660 or best offer</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Stainless tank on wheels with air injection, blower, pipes, and socks.▶ Runs great, we have no room for it – big money maker!
<p> Tree Specialists, Inc. Conservation Preservation Restoration 508-328-6665 • Holliston, MA</p>	

Gleanings

Native Species or Invasive? The Distinction Blurs as the World Warms

With thousands of species on the move as the climate changes, a growing number of scientists say that the dichotomy between native and alien species has become an outdated concept and that efforts must be made to help migrating species adapt to their new habitats. Read more in [Yale Environment 360](#).



The Past and the Future of the Earth's Oldest Trees

Bristlecone pines have survived various catastrophes over the millennia, and they may survive humanity. Read more in the [New Yorker](#).



Growing Greener - Ecological Gardens Focus

Last year, Thomas Christopher began an ongoing series of interviews for WESU FM with guests who are engaged with ecological issues surrounding landscapes. He is now releasing them as a series of podcasts at thomaschristophergardens.com. Upcoming interviews will include conversations with Dr. Douglas Tallamy about his new book, *Nature's Best Hope*, and with Dr. Elaine Ingham about her work with the soil food web and her Soil Food Web School.



A Native Plant Guru's Radical Vision for the American Yard

Doug Tallamy asks us to rethink our relationship to plants and animals, particularly the idea that "nature" is something separate from our daily lives. Read more at washingtonpost.com.



Unknown Saviors of the Environment: Thirty-five Men Create a Forest from Barren Land

Without government support or recognition, a group of men created a lush green forest by planting over 1.4 million saplings over the past fifteen years in Assam state in northeastern India. Read more at Mongabay.com.



Salvation or Pipe Dream? A Movement Grows to Protect Up to Half the Planet

Leading scientists and conservationists are proposing that up to 50 percent of the earth's land and oceans be protected in the coming decades. While some view the goal as unrealistic, proponents say it is essential for preserving the natural systems on which life itself depends. Read more in [Yale Environment 360](#).



Western Monarch Butterfly Population Still at Critical Level

The number of monarch butterflies overwintering in California remains at a critical level for the second year. Read more in [Xerces](#).



Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Offers New Advanced Studies Program

CMBG will offer a new certificate course within Advanced Studies in 2020. Geared toward professionals and students in the landscape industry, Resilient Landscapes in Built Environments will offer tools to create sustainable, health, and long-lived landscapes. It's a course designed for professional landscape practitioners or those enrolled in a landscape degree who are interested in furthering their professional development and broadening their current practices, and appropriate for everyone from experienced LA, a Landscape Designer, a Landscape or Garden Contractor or a Landcare Consultant. Find out more at [CMBG](#).



Garden Club Federation of MA Announces Native Plant Collaboration

The Native Plant Challenge sets goals for garden clubs throughout the state to learn about native plants, identify ones appropriate for their locations, and design and implement native plant gardens in their communities. Partnering organizations include Native Plant Trust and Grow Native Massachusetts. Find out more at GCFM.org.



Handbook on Caring for Natural Lands

After decades caring for tens-of-thousands of acres of woodlands, fields, and streams, the Natural Lands Trust shares their knowledge in *Land for Life*, available as a download or for purchase as a bound copy. Find out more at natlands.org.



Calls for Presentations

Integrated Pest Management Symposium

Proposals are invited for the 10th International Integrated Pest Management Symposium - Implementing IPM across Borders and Disciplines to be held March 15-18, 2021 in Denver, CO). Sessions or individual presentations can address any aspect of IPM, such as research, Extension, regulatory actions, policy, and IPM in practice. Find out more at ipmsymposium.org.

National Land Conservation Conference

Rally 2020, the National Land Conservation Conference, seeks presentation proposals addressing how land trusts can plan engage, adapt, mitigate, and address inclusion and climate change. Find out more at alliancerally.org.



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[Green Jay Landscaping](#) :Landscape Design/Project Manager

White Plains, NY

Premier Ecological Landscape Design, Build and Maintenance Company seeks new team member.

Basic Qualifications:

- * Background/Education in landscape design and horticulture
- * Graphic ability: preferably Dynascape/Autocad, sketch up, Photoshop, hand draw/color rendering, etc.
- * Job involves working with team to create designs, cost

estimates, client presentations and field project management and client meetings
Salary open. [Learn more about the position and apply.](#)

[Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association](#): Apprenticeship Program Coordinator

The Apprenticeship Coordinator works in collaboration with the Education and Training Coordinator and reports directly to the Executive Director. The Apprenticeship Coordinator will serve as the apprenticeship program's project manager, ensuring that all components of the program are well integrated and running smoothly. The ideal candidate for this position is an engaging and excellent communicator, a highly organized project manager, and a builder with an entrepreneurial spirit. This is an independent contractor position, averaging 30 hours

per week with predictable peaks and lulls over the course of the year. Remote work is required. Travel for program events and meetings is also required.

Contact executivedirector@rinla.org for more information.

Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association: Education and Training Coordinator

The Education and Training Coordinator oversees RINLA's educational offerings over the course of the year, with a focus on aligning educational offerings with training requirements of RINLA's Registered Apprenticeship programs. With passion for and familiarity with plant-based industry, the person in this role is charged with ensuring that RINLA provides timely, accessible, relevant, and in-demand trainings and resources to member businesses. This includes designing, planning, delivering and evaluating RINLA's proprietary education and training programs while also managing and updating a portfolio of high quality educational resources available locally, regionally, and nationally available to RINLA member businesses and their employees and apprentices. This is an independent contractor position averaging 30 hours per week with responsibilities distributed across the year.

Contact executivedirector@rinla.org for more information.

Grow Native Massachusetts: Manager of Operations & Outreach

Waltham, MA

We are seeking a skilled nonprofit professional to join our team and in a position of significant responsibility as we enter our second decade. She/he will take a lead role in managing operations overall, and especially executing the details of running our nonprofit office on a daily basis. Responsibilities include working closely with the board to help manage our annual budget (currently \$200,000); working with our Manager of Programs to plan a variety of events and to develop our large volunteers corps; and communicating clearly both in writing and in person to build strong relationships with our 700 active members and the larger public. We serve a large constituency and operate with a small staff; we expect to grow to three full-time staff this year. The successful candidate will have a strong and diverse skill set, enjoy taking initiative and responsibility, and be a team player who is passionate about our mission and enjoys working in close partnership with others to get things done.

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

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)

February

- February 19 - [Principles and Fundamentals of Weed Science](#); Westford, MA; 9:00am-2:30pm.
- February 22 **ELA Class**→[Seeing Is Believing - A Visual Garden Design Workshop](#); Framingham, MA 10:30am-3:00pm.
- February 23 - [Medicinal & Edible Native Plants](#); Stockbridge, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.
- February 24-28 **ELA Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#); Boylston, MA.
- February 25 **ELA Webinar**→[Organic Lawn Care: Healthier Lawns for People, Pets, and Pollinators](#); 12:00-1:00pm.
- February 25-26 - [Green Industry Job Fair](#); Marlborough, MA.
- February 26 - [Pollinators in Our Landscapes](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.
- February 26 - [Forests and Carbon in a Larger Frame](#); North Adams, MA; 7:00pm.
- February 28 **ELA Class**→[Cultivating Your Plant Communities](#); Framingham, MA; 1:00-4:00pm.
- February 29 - [Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference](#); Denver, CO; 9:00am-5:00pm.

March

- March 3 - [Prairie Preview XXXVII](#); Iowa City, IA; 6:30-9:00pm.
- March 4 - [Climate Change, Conservation, and the Role of Native Plant Horticulture](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
- 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 7 - [URI Garden Symposium](#); Kingston, RI; 7:30am-4:00pm.
- March 7 - [Home Orchard Pruning](#); Harvard, MA; 10:00am-noon.
- March 8 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Bristol, RI.
- March 9 - [Places for Pollinators: Designing Welcoming Landscapes](#); Valhalla, NY; 8:30am-3:00pm.
- March 10 - [Community Tree Conference - Challenges and Opportunities for 2020: What's New in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry](#); Amherst, MA; 8:45am-3:30pm.
- 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 11 - [Tick Behavior: Finding Hosts & Feeding](#) (webinar); 12:00-1:00pm.
- March 13-14 - Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium - [Vision 2020: Bringing the Future into Focus](#); Ithaca, NY.
- March 16-20 **ELA Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#); Round Lake, NY.
- March 18 - [State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management](#); Westford, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm.
- March 21 **ELA Class**→[A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward](#); Framingham, MA; 10:30am-2:30pm.
- March 23 - **ELA Webinar**→[Protecting Pollinators](#); 12:30-1:30pm ET.
- March 26 - [Spring Kickoff for Landscapers: UMass Extensions Landscape Education Day](#); 9:00am-3:15pm.
- March 27-28 - [Cultivating Connected Communities Spring Symposium](#); Madison, WI.
- March 28 - [The Climate's Future Is in Our Lands - 2020 Land Conservation Conference](#); Worcester, MA; 8:00am-4:00pm.
- March 28 - [Home Orchard Establishment & Basics](#); Harvard, MA; 10:00am-noon.
- March 30-April 3 **ELA Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#); Gardiner, ME.

April

- April 1 - [Designing with Plant Communities](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
- April 1 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#); Westford, MA; 9:00am-2:00pm.
- April 2 **ELA Class**→[Navigating Public Design Part 2](#); Framingham, MA; 10:30am-2:30pm.
- April 4 - [2nd Annual Native Plant Social with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#); Annapolis, MD;

9:00am-1:00pm.

April 8-May 13 - [Native Plants of Spring](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 10:00am-12:00pm.

April 18 - [Native Pollinator Conservation & Biology - A Classroom Workshop](#); Amherst, MA; 10:00am-noon.

April 28 **ELA Class**→[Tips and Techniques for Healthy Seedling Starts](#); Whately, MA; 10:00am-1:00pm.

April 30 **ELA Class**→[Building the Green Industry](#); Framingham, MA; 10:30am-1:30pm.

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

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Mention of products is not intended to constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of ELA's directors, staff, or members.

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*

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