

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

January 2020



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

From the Editor

A new year, whichever date you mark it, encourages fresh starts and resolutions. For those of us stuck inside on a cold, snowy day in January, the new year beckons with a swirl of possibilities: new plants, new books, new design ideas, new solutions to old problems. Anything seems possible when the ground is frozen or too wet to work. Herein we share some new ideas in articles that touch on topics at the core of ELA's March [Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#). From meadows, to our diverse roles in the landscape, to counting our landscape connections in years, I hope you find encouragement to take a fresh look at the landscape. *MPS*



The Top Ten Successful Meadow Species... and Why

by Penn Marchael

Establishing a meadow is difficult; you have to combat chaotic weather forecasts and wait at least three years to see results all while managing clients' anxiety around whether or not it's working. Knowing which species typically have the most success in establishment and longevity is a crucial factor in creating a sustainable meadow. Here are the top ten meadow species (from seed) that will make your meadows work. [Read the article.](#)

Mr. Marchael presents *Meadows: If You Build It, They Will Come* at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) on March 4, 2020.



The Earth in her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants by Jennifer Jewell

Women have been sowers of seeds and tenders of seedlings for a very, very long time. For much of that time these women didn't have the time or the means to document their history. There is no telling the whole story of women making their lives with plants or women broadening the field of plant knowledge and practice. I can't even superficially acknowledge all the women in plants who've cultivated this territory before us, except to say the compost-rich soil they left behind is what germinated the seeds that grew the vibrant women I'm writing about today. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Jewell gives the Keynote Address, *The Earth in Her Hands - Remarkable Plantswomen Expanding the Ecology of Horticulture*, the evening of March 4, 2020 at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#).



Personal Reflections on Five Years of Discovery: The New Academic Center at St. George's School by Lori Silvia

Developed and tended as a labor of love over five years, the landscape surrounding the Academic Center at Rhode Island's St. George's School provided the author with new lessons day after day. From the early years as the landscape's parent, overseeing every aspect of the emerging environment, the author's role evolved to partner as nature took the lead. [Read the article.](#)

Ms. Silvia presents *The Challenges and Complexities of Ecological Gardens: A 5-year Journal of Discoveries* at [ELA's Conference & Eco-Marketplace](#) on March 5, 2020.



From the Archives Preserving Trees Through Collaboration by CJ Lammers

Preserving large trees in a new or renovated landscape is a complex task that requires the collaboration of many different professionals to be successful. The problem is that not all of these professionals will take the time to learn about trees, so it's the landscape designer's job to understand all aspects of the other professions, their vision for the project, and how they will conduct their work on a site, to ensure that the trees can survive and thrive. [Read the article.](#)

Delve into the urban forest with ELA on February 6 at the [Urban Tree Symposium: The Future of the Urban Forest](#), Tower Hill Botanical Garden.

Our Conference Sponsors



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ELA News Inside ELA

As we look forward to the new year, ELA's board and staff are grateful to the community of landscape professionals and devoted amateurs who help advance our work. In 2019, your support enabled us to launch our new website, to sign up our 500th member, and to create a new series of Spanish-language webinars. Each of these achievements builds our community and helps us share our innovative programs with new audiences.

The landscape is quiet now, but ELA's webinars continue all winter long, and registration is open for our annual **Conference & Eco-Marketplace**, which will take place on March 4 and 5 at the UMass campus in Amherst, MA. We hope to see you there!

Toby Wolf, PLA.

President, Board of Directors



New Event in 2020

ELA has a new collaboration with Tower Hill Botanic Garden. On February 6 join us at the [Urban Tree Symposium: The Future of the Urban Forest](#).



Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors

Throughout the year, your membership, registration fees, and donations help ELA provide premium ecological education in many forms. We appreciate the members of our community who contributed to our end-of-year appeal and recognize them here. If you missed our email, [it is not too late to donate](#). Your donation in any amount will be put to work immediately as we develop new webinars, symposia, tours, and conferences for 2020.

Our special thanks to:

- ~ Anonymous (2) ~ Tricia Diggins ~ Todd Haiman ~ Nanette Masi ~
- ~ Amanda Sloan (in kind) ~ Elizabeth Wehrle ~ Toby Wolf ~



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](#).



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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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](#).

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Gleanings

Doug Tallamy to Lecture at Grow Native Massachusetts

Grow Native Massachusetts begins their monthly Evenings with Experts lecture series on February 5 with Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. Tallamy will present "Nature's Best Hope" at 7:00pm at Harvard University Science Center Hall B.

The 2020 series also features:

- ~ Jesse Bellemare - Climate Change, Conservation, and the Role of Native Plant Horticulture
- ~ Dan Jaffe - Designing with Plant Communities
- ~ Heather Holm - Native Bees: Our Pollination Powerhouses

Find more information about all of these events at [Grow Native Massachusetts](#).



Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Offers New Advanced Studies Program

CMBG will offer a new certificate course in 2020 geared toward professionals and students in the landscape industry. Resilient Landscapes in the Built Environment will offer landscape professionals tools to create sustainable, healthy, and long-lived landscapes. Details posted soon at www.maine gardens.org or contact [Irene Barber](#).



Ecopsychology: How Immersion in Nature Benefits Your Health

A growing body of research points to the beneficial effects that exposure to the natural world has on health, reducing stress and promoting healing. Now, policymakers, employers, and healthcare providers are increasingly considering the human need for nature in how they plan and operate. Read more in [Yale Environment 360](#).



The Plastics Pipeline: A Surge of New Production Is on the Way

Already awash in plastic, we'll soon see more, as a host of new petrochemical plants - their ethane feedstock supplied by the fracking boom - come online. Faced with the prospect of reduced demand for their fuel, major oil companies are ramping up their plastics output. Read more in [Yale Environment 360](#).



Can Invasive Species Replace Native Species as a Resource for Birds Under Climate Change? A Case Study on Bird-Fruit Interactions

A study released last year finds that native plants provide vital support to birds in Massachusetts. Data gathered at Manomet, a long-term bird observatory and stopover for migratory birds, was the site of the research, which confirmed that migratory birds select native plants over potentially more abundant invasive alternatives. Read more in [ScienceDirect](#).



'Butterfly Whisperer' Revives Rare San Francisco Species

A butterfly hobbyist has brought the California Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly back to San Francisco after it virtually disappeared due to habitat loss. The "butterfly whisperer," as he is known locally, introduced California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) to his own San Francisco yard, developing the habitat the swallowtail requires and raising caterpillars. Read more in [VOX](#) and [CBSN Bay Area](#).



COGdesign Rolls Out New Projects

Eleven new community-initiated projects need landscape architects and designers to lead them to completion. Find details about all of the projects and sign up to help at [COGdesign](#).



US Water Alliance Announces New Competition

Awarded annually, the US Water Prize celebrates outstanding achievement in the advancement of sustainable, integrated, and inclusive solutions to the nation's water challenges. Nominations are due Wednesday, February 19; winners will be announced and recognized during a ceremony held May 12 in Washington DC. Find out more at [US Water Alliance](#).



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.

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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)

January

January 16 - [Planning for Soil Health](#); Dighton, MA; 3:00-5:00pm.

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 18 - [Edible Native Plants for Every Garden](#); Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE; 11:00am-2:15pm.

January 20 **ELA Webinar**→[Reliable Hydrangea Blooms? Choose Natives](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

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. [Trailer available here](#).

January 28 - [Plant-o-Rama](#); Brooklyn Botanic Garden, NY; 8:45am-4:00pm.

January 28 - [Farming for Biodiversity: Designing Pollination Systems to Sustain Native Wildlife](#) (webinar); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

February

February 1 - [With an Eye Towards Nature: A Japanese Garden Intensive](#) (application opens); Portland, OR. Event runs April 25-27, 2020.

February 5 - [Nature's Best Hope](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.

February 6 **ELA Symposium**→[Urban Tree Symposium: The Future of the Urban Forest](#); Boylston, MA; 8:30am-4:30pm.

February 6 - [Open Space Residential Development Workshop](#); Harvard, MA; 4:00-9:00pm.

February 10 **ELA Webinar**→[Conservation, Education, and Community Building through Prairie Restoration](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

February 12 - [Seasonal Variation in Activity and Abundance of Human-biting Ticks](#) (webinar); 12:00-1:00pm.

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 25-26 - [Green Industry Job Fair](#); Marlborough, MA.

February 26 - [Pollinators in Our Landscapes](#); Milford, MA; 9:00am-3:30pm.

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 8 - [NOFA/RI Winter Conference](#); Bristol, RI.

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 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 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 30-April 3 **ELA Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#);
Gardiner, ME.

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

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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join. [Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at ela.info@comcast.net. *Maureen Sundberg, ELA Newsletter Editor*

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