

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

April 2020



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

From the Editor

Uncertainty abounds these days. Whether self-quarantining or working while managing safety, we are all living our lives very differently from four weeks ago. Though our "outside" world has compressed, many of us are fortunate to have access to online options for education and entertainment. If you haven't checked the websites of your favorite organizations, take a look for more classes offered as webinars or for pages filled with activities to keep us engaged with nature.

Last week ELA began [A Walk in the Garden](#), a new series of free webinars that will run through early July. Watch for additional online offerings as spring progresses. Also, ELA's third annual [Spotlight on Natives](#) photo contest has begun. We hope you're able to get outside and revel in spring (while keeping a safe distance from other revelers). While you're out, snap some photos to share! *MPS*



Spread Love, Not Mulch by Missy Fabel

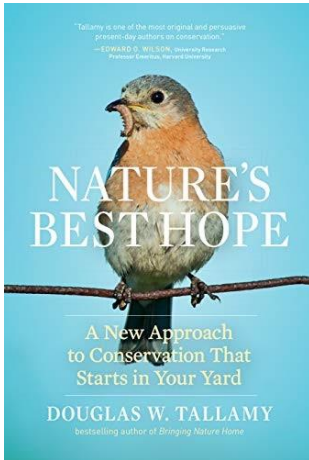
It's easy to be beguiled by the fresh look and scent of newly spread mulch. Yet for the ecologically minded, there are more alluring solutions. The spread of native groundcovers by rhizome, stolon, or seed introduces both functionality and a particular aesthetic into the landscape as plants fill gaps and cover soil by virtue of their growth habits and reproductive strategies. [Read the article.](#)



Add Mystery with Ferns

by Leslie Duthie

Long the subject of fantasy and lore, ferns were objects of desire well into the 1800s. Today, gardeners are unsure of both the ecological value of these ancient plants and how to incorporate them in the landscape. Tolerant and adaptable, ferns offer both ecological and design value to the modern landscape. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard

Written by Doug Tallamy

Published by Timber Press (2020)

Reviewed by Angela Tanner

As the world hunkers down in the midst of a pandemic, Doug Tallamy's latest book *Nature's Best Hope* offers, as the title suggests, hope, and we all need a little of that. Drawing topics from his earlier book *Bringing Nature Home*, Tallamy explains, with examples and statistics, what is happening to the ecological systems around us, and why we should care. [Read the review.](#)

Eco-Answers from the Pros



Designing for a Shady, Dry Yard

I live in Zone 6 just outside of Boston, MA. Our tiny front yard faces north and is mostly shaded by the three-story house. To make matters worse, there is a Norway Maple on the other side of the sidewalk, so the yard is dry. What native plants could we use against the foundation that don't get too high and perhaps could replace the turf? The yard is too small for a tree or large shrubs. [Read the Eco-Pro's answer.](#)



Mud for Mason Bees

I want to raise mason bees on my second-floor balcony. I will put a container of mud nearby, but what are good sources of mud? Our ground near here has much sand in it. [Read the Eco-Pro's answers.](#)

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 seek a second opinion on a potential solution, ask ELA's Eco-Pros. Send your question to ela_new@verizon.net. And if you need additional help, refer to our listing of [ELA Professionals.](#)

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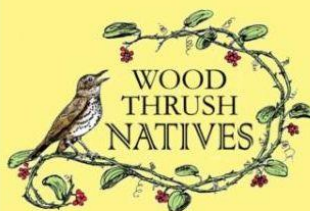
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ELA News

Take Time to Take a Photo!

ELA's third [Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest](#) has begun. We look forward to seeing many wonderful native plants from across the country captured in photographs. Entry is free, and you can submit photos of native plants in garden settings or photos of individual specimen.

Entries will be accepted between now and May 31 at 5:00pm. First Prize Winners receive a one-year ELA Professional Membership. Photographers receiving Honorable Recognition will earn \$50 credit toward purchases at the ELA Bookstore. Winners will be announced in June. Find all the details [here](#).



Take a Walk in the Garden with ELA

Find spring inspiration and an hour of calm amid the tumult of current events with this free Wednesday webinar series. Join ELA for a virtual walk in the garden complete with plant discussions and garden tips:

April 22 - [Save the Pollinators! Save the Planet!](#)

April 29 - [Planting Design Considerations](#)

May 6 - [Art and design Principles for Ecological Landscapes](#)

May 13 - [Tenacious Plants for Tough Places](#)

May 20 - [Spring Ephemerals](#)

May 27 - [Mountain Top Arboretum: Timber Frame Education Center from Catskill Native Trees](#)

Find the complete list of scheduled events at [A Walk in the Garden](#).



Virtual Coffee on Hold

Instead of calling in to volunteer coffee on third Wednesdays, enjoy the [Walk in the Garden](#) webinar series! If you have an idea to share, you can still send it in an email to ela_new@verizon.net.



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Gleanings

Artful Rainwater

As this issue of the newsletter considers water in the landscape, view an [Artful Rainwater Design Symposium](#) with Stacy Levy, an artist whose sculptures convey and infiltrate stormwater in beautiful yet purposeful ways.



Support Queen Bumble Bees

The arrival of spring signals the return of bumble bees. Xerces Society offers guidelines for establishing habitat that will sustain the bees as they begin to wake up and throughout the year. Read more at xerces.org.



Native Plants for Native Pollinators

Heather Holm, author of *Pollinators of Native Plants*, offers 8 ½ x11 posters featuring native plants and the native bees they support. Other posters feature native bee and butterfly habitat. Find the downloadable pdfs at pollinatorsnativeplants.com.



Can Carbon Smart Farming Play a Key Role in the Climate Fight?

Markets are emerging to pay farmers to store more carbon in the soil by using improved agricultural practices. But flows of greenhouse gases into and out of soil are complex, and some scientists are questioning whether these efforts will actually help slow global warming. Read more in [YaleEnvironment360](#).



Tick Season Has Begun

Ticks are out and Tick Talk has begun. Undeterred by COVID-19, ticks are active in the landscape. UMass Extension continues its TickTalk series this year on the second Wednesday of each month at noon. Previous webinars are archived and available for viewing. Find out more at [UMass Extension](#).



Examine the Incredible World of Insects

UMass Extension has begun a series of short videos focused on insects. The first episode features Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*). Find more at [InsectXaminer](#).



Activities for Yourself and Your Kids

With many public spaces across the country closed to visitors as we work to slow the spread of COVID-19, online opportunities for engagement have sprung up along with spring bulbs. Here is a small sampling of places where you can glimpse spring on your electronic device.

- ~ [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)
- ~ [Coastal Maine Botanic Garden Family Facebook Group](#)
- ~ [Our Gardens Your Home with Longwood Gardens](#)
- ~ [Brooklyn Botanic Garden Virtual Visits](#)

Other gardens offer activities for adults and children:

- ~ [The National Trust: 50 Things to Do Before You're 11 ³/₄](#)
- ~ [Mass Audubon Explore Nature at Home](#)
- ~ [Tower Hill Botanic Garden Educational Resources](#)
- ~ [Trustees at Home](#)

Check the website of your local public space to discover what's available in your area.



Mass Land Trust Conference Moves Online

Although the in-person conference was cancelled, several conference sessions will be presented through a series of free webinars in April and May. Find the complete listing of sessions and registration information at [MassLand](#).



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](#). Proposals due by June 30, 2020.



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

April

April 16 - [Implementing Natural Solutions to Climate Change](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

April 16, 23, 30, May 7 - [Basics of Garden Design](#) (webinar); 10:00am-4:00pm ET.

April 17 - [Spring into the Garden with Ease](#) (webinar) 2:00-3:00pm ET.

April 18 **ELA Webinar Class**→[Tips and Techniques for Healthy Seedling Starts](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:00am-1:00pm.

April 18, 25 - [Pruning: Before and During the Spring Equinox](#) (webinar); 9:30-11:00am ET.

April 20 - [Approaching Forest Health Threats in a Changing Climate](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

April 22 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Save the Pollinators! Save the Planet!](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

April 22 - [Earth Day 2020](#) (digital events); find a local event; times vary.

April 27 - [Sustainable Trails: Preserving our Pathways to Nature](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

April 27 - [Spring Soils 1: The Vegetable and Fruit Garden](#) (webinar); 9:30-10:30am ET.

April 29 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Planting Design Considerations](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

April 29 - [Secrets of Becoming Wildly Successful: How to Elevate Your Company to the Next Level](#) (webinar); 2:00-3:00pm ET.

April 30 **ELA Webinar Class**→[Building the Green Industry](#); - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-1:30pm.

May

May 1 - [Fields, Meadows & Grasslands: Oh MY!](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

May 4 - [Spring Soils 2: Native and Non-Native Ornamentals](#) (webinar); 9:30-10:30am ET.

May 5 - [Resilient Lands: Nature's Value in a Changing Climate](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

May 6 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Art and design Principles for Ecological Landscapes](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

May 6 - [Native Bees: Our Pollination Powerhouses](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm.
Rescheduled for September 23.

May 7 - [Effective Public Outreach in Massachusetts MS4 Communities](#) (webinar); 1:00-2:30pm ET.

May 8 - [Forest Carbon: A Natural Solution for Climate Change](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

May 13 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Tenacious Plants for Tough Places](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:15pm ET.

May 15 **ELA Webinar Class**→[Eco-restorative Garden Design](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-2:30pm ET.

May 19 **ELA Webinar Class**→[Native Plant Design for Human Health](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-2:30pm ET.

May 20 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Spring Ephemerals](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

May 27 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Mountain Top Arboretum: Timber Frame Education Center from Catskill Native Trees](#); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

May 29 **ELA Class**→[Our Future with Water: Stormwater Management Strategies](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-1:30pm ET.

May 30 **ELA Class**→[Landscape Design for Changing Site Conditions](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-4:00pm ET.

May 30 - [2nd Annual Native Plant Social with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#); Annapolis, MD; 9:00am-1:00pm. Rescheduled for September 12.

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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