

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



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

From the Editor

Time spent in natural settings is a stress reliever during normal times, and the past week has been anything but normal for many people. Perhaps now more than ever it's important for us to get outdoors and benefit from nature's healing influence. Though schools and churches are closed and public events cancelled, many botanical gardens, public parks and trails, and arboreta remain open to the public (check websites to confirm access). We hope everyone who isn't already out in the landscape can enjoy a walk on a local path or trail, telecommute from a sunny bench at the local park, or enjoy lunch *al fresco* right at home. While practicing social distancing, we can still connect with nature. Deep cleansing breaths in the fresh air never hurts, and just might help. Stay safe. *MPS*



Spring Tool Maintenance

by Steve Cushman

One of the most important chores for tool maintenance is keeping cutting edges sharp; however, sharpening can cover a huge realm of techniques and tools. Find out about techniques requiring only a small investment, and you'll have your garden tools in perfect shape as the season starts - and perhaps be inspired to keep them that way. [Read the article.](#)



Environmental Benefits of Organic Lawns

by Mary Travaglini

Sometimes people ask, "Aren't lawns bad for the environment?" Turns out that's not true, especially if the lawns are organic and have healthy soils. [Read the article.](#)

Mary's webinar presentation [Lawn Soils and Organic Lawn Care: Healthier Lawns for People, Pets, and Pollinators](#) can be viewed for free on the ELA website.



The Case for Sustainable Landscape Materials - An Interview with Meg Calkins

by Jared Green

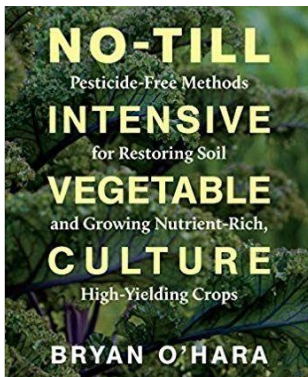
Meg Calkins, professor of landscape architecture at North Carolina State University and founding member of the Sustainable SITES Initiative®, reports on the progress of SITES, including areas such as materials reuse in which progress still needs to be made. [Read the interview.](#)



Inspired by Spring

Compiled by Penny Lewis

Within the articles and illustrations of the *ELA Newsletter*, you will typically learn about design, installation, and maintenance as they relate to resilient landscapes. As we process quarantines, social distancing, shutdowns, and shortages, we offer these inspirational words as personal sustenance while we await return to normalcy. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review: No-Till Intensive Vegetable Culture

Written by Bryan O'Hara

Published by Chelsea Green Publishing, 2020

Reviewed by M.L. Altobelli

You may think a book by this title is not for the ecological landscape professional, but the author's understanding of the world of soils and plants is every bit as useful whether you are growing tomatoes or lady slipper orchids. [Read the review.](#)



Is the Glass Half Full or Half Empty?

by Jim Shephard

In spite of severe drought, downturn economy, horrendous rainy springs, lack of labor, plant disease epidemics, locusts, lantern flies, huge competition, even hurricanes plant lovers are a resilient bunch and carry on. It can help to look at the glass as half full. [Read the article.](#)



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ELA News

Announcing the 4th Celebrate Native Plants Tour!

Showcase your native plant garden during ELA's **Fourth Annual Celebrating Native Plants Garden Tour**. Whether it's a garden you've nurtured and maintained over decades, or a newly installed garden at your own or a client's property, ELA invites you to share your passion for native plants on **Saturday afternoon June 13**. Registered guests will visit gardens around Massachusetts to share, discuss, and discover the beauty and ecosystem value of native plants. Take advantage of this opportunity to inspire greater use of native plants.

[Learn the details and add your garden to the growing list.](#)

Start Sorting Your Photos!

Today begins ELA's third Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted between now and May 31 at 5:00pm. Share your photos of native plants, whether individual specimen or in garden settings. 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](#).



Conference Thank-yous

ELA's 2020 Conference & Eco-Marketplace held March 4 & 5 already feels eons ago. It was our largest conference yet and a great success thanks to the efforts of many. We appreciate all the volunteers, presenters, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees who contributed their time and enthusiasm. We offer special thanks to the Conference Committee, which works year round to produce a stellar event. Special recognition goes to Dan Jaffe for spearheading a very popular seed exchange.



Irene Brady Barber ~ Willow Cheeley ~ Mark Highland ~ Dan Jaffe
Penny Lewis (Chair) ~ Rie Macchiarolo ~ Kerry O'Kelly ~ Trevor Smith
Maureen Sundberg ~ Angela Tanner ~ Bob Walsh

We also recognize the Membership Committee for a successful roll out of our first Conference Student Scholarship Program: Heather Heimarck, Rie Macchiarolo, Kerry O'Kelly, Mark Richardson, Amanda Sloan, and Julie Snell.

Many thanks to our Conference Sponsors:

[Compostwerks!](#) ~ [OESCO](#) ~ [Planters' Choice Nurseries](#)

Plant ID Quiz Winners

Congratulations to Michele Chalice and Oakley Payne-Meyer, the winners of the Winter Plant Identification Quiz at the March Conference. The entrant each day with the most correct answers received a Professional Membership for the year.

Wondering how you did on the Quiz? You can [check your answers here](#).

Great Seeing You on the Big Screen

Thank you to all the ELA members at the conference who took time to send in a member profile for display during lunch. It was fun looking for you, and we hope the profiles helped you connect with some new people!



Events Update

National Green Infrastructure Certification Program

The class scheduled for Gardiner, ME later this month has been postponed until November 9-13.

New Classes and Eco-Tours

In order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, spring classes will not meet in person until further notice. In the interim, classes will be conducted as live webinars. At this time, Eco-tours, which take place outside, will continue as planned.

Find all ELA's upcoming events on the [Events page](#) of our website.



March 18: Let Us Hear from You

Stuck at home 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).



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

#PlantsDoThat Infographics for Education

The National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture offers a set of downloadable infographics that highlight the importance of landscape plants in conserving and protecting the environment. Colorful, succinct graphics let you share with clients and others the many benefits of plants. Read more and find the graphics at consumerhort.org.



New Group Connects Women in the Landscape Industry

Weston Nurseries proudly announces their collaborative effort with landscaping and architectural firms to develop a group by and for women in the industry. Monthly meetings and guests are on the agenda. Find out more at [Weston Nurseries](#).



Collected Watershed: A Living Water Map

Visit the Center for the Arts Gallery at Towson University, Towson, MD to immerse yourself in an interdisciplinary eco-art adventure provided by environmental artist Stacy Levy. Find out more about the exhibit and opportunities to visit at townson.edu.



Love Your Lawn? Let It Grow

Urban Lawns make up less than 2 percent of the ground cover in the U.S., and yet the ecological impacts of that pristine green European-imported turfgrass are enormous. Read more at Sierra.



'Bee-washing' Hurts Bees and Misleads Consumers

Amid the worry over the loss of honey bees, a far quieter but just as devastating loss is occurring among lesser known native bee populations, which are vital to plant pollination. Read more at theconversation.com.



Cornell (Pesticide Decision-Making Guides)

Cornell University offers a guide to help landscape managers, turf specialists, horticulturists, and others understand and compare the acute toxicity and synergistic effects of different pesticides on pollinators, helping them choose a product that is effective against target pests but poses minimal risks to bees. Download the pdf at cornell.edu.



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 offers a new certificate course, Resilient Landscapes in Built Environments, within Advanced Studies in 2020; Part 2, Plants and Practice, begins April 1. Geared toward professionals and students in the landscape industry, the course provides tools to create sustainable, healthy, 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.



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 April 20, 2020.



**Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.
[Become a Member!](#)**

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

March

March 19 cancelled - [State Regulations Pertaining to Invasive Plant Management](#); Westford, MA; 9:00am-3:00pm. Canceled

March 19 - [Biochar: What Is It?](#) - webinar; 11:00am-noon ET.

March 21 **ELA Webinar Class**→[A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-2:30pm ET.

March 21 - [Bare Trees and Naked Shrubs](#); Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Wales, MA; 1:30-3:00pm.

March 23 - **ELA Webinar**→[Protecting Pollinators](#); 12:30-1:30pm ET.

March 26 cancelled - [Spring Kickoff for Landscapers: UMass Extensions Landscape Education Day](#); 9:00am-3:15pm.

March 27 - [With an Eye Towards Nature: A Japanese Garden Design Intensive](#) - registration deadline. Event takes place April 25-27; Portland, OR; 9:00am-5:00pm.

March 27-28 - [Cultivating Connected Communities Spring Symposium](#); Madison, WI.

March 28 cancelled - [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 Webinar Class**→[NGICP National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#); Gardiner, ME. Postponed until November 9-13.

April

April 1 - [Designing with Plant Communities](#); Cambridge, MA; 7:00-8:30pm. Rescheduled for October 21.

April 1 - [The Invasive Plant Issue and Invasive Plant Identification](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 9:00am-2:00pm.

April 1 - Nutrient Best Management Practices for Lawns - webinar; 8:00-11:00am ET. Contact Patty Gambarini at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for information:

PGambarini@PVPC.org.

April 1,8,15,22 Postponed - [Resilient Landscapes in Built Environments: Plants and Practice](#); Boothbay, ME; 9:00am-4:30pm.

April 2 **ELA Webinar Class**→[Navigating Public Design Part 2](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:30am-2:30pm ET.

April 2 - [Natural and Stormwater Wetlands: What Landscape Practitioners Need To Know](#); Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Boothbay, ME; 9:30am-4:00pm.

April 8-May 13 Cancelled - [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 18 **ELA Webinar Class**→[Tips and Techniques for Healthy Seedling Starts](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 10:00am-1:00pm.

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

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

May 19 **ELA Webinar 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.

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



[Lyndon Tree Care & Landscaping: Skilled Tree Climber/Bucket Operator or Trainee](#)

Happy Valley, MA

Seeking an experienced tree climber/bucket operator/grounds personnel for fine pruning and crane and bucket truck assisted removals. We are also looking for highly motivated, detail-oriented individuals interested in learning the trade, groundwork, climbing, and bucket truck/lift operation.

To learn more about the position and apply, contact

jennifer@lyndontreecare.com.

Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics, Conservation, and Education (ACE): Invasive Species Management Program Coordinator

Cliff Island, Maine

ACE, a non-profit organization founded in 1977, stewards open space properties on Cliff Island for the benefit of community members and their guests for both active and passive recreation. We seek a strong candidate to continue and expand our Invasive Species Management Program begun 10 years ago. Housing provided; compensation commensurate with experience, education, skill level.

For more information or to submit resume and cover letter, email

michael.p.drennan@gmail.com.

[All Gardens Inc: Experienced Landscape/Gardener](#)

All Gardens Inc. is an ecological landscape company that plans, builds, and stewards residential landscapes in the greater Cambridge area. We do work that is practical, tailored to our clients' lifestyles, and maximizes environmental benefits. We are looking for reliable, hardworking, enthusiastic people to join our team. This position would initially be as a crew member, but we are seeking someone to grow into a crew leader.

For more information or apply, contact henrygoldfarb@gmail.com.

[Norcross Wildlife: Executive Director](#)

Wales, MA

We seek a senior leader with vision, courage, energy, passion, and creativity to guide our three core programming areas: Education, Horticulture, and Sanctuary Preservation. The new Executive Director will partner with the board to build and execute a renewed strategy that reflects the value of the existing programs and staff, while also implementing innovations that expand the impact of the programs and draw awareness to the mission through partnerships with local, regional, and possibly national collaborators.

Find our more www.norcrosswildlife.org/jobs/.

[Meadowscaping for Biodiversity: College Internships and Staff Opportunities](#)

Meadowscaping for Biodiversity (MS4B) provides outdoor, project-based, environmental education to youth. We are dedicated to exposing students to nature, empowering them to take positive steps to restore biodiversity, and helping them develop life and career-readiness skills.

To learn more, contact Barbara Passero, bpassero2013@gmail.com 781-209-0052

Lauri Johnson Landscape Design: Eco-Gardening Positions

Boston Metro West and North Shore

Offering fine gardening/eco-landscaping gardener positions for the 2020 season.

- Full Time and Part Time positions available; training provided.
- Seeking enthusiastic, thoughtful, nature-loving people to join our team.
- Our team works within a supportive, respectful culture.
- Use ecologically-based practices to promote healthy landscapes for people and wildlife.

Find out more and apply through the "Let's work together" link at LauriJohnsonDesign.com.

Bigelow Nurseries. Central Massachusetts

We have a number of positions available:

- Garden Center Positions: sales, general maintenance, cashiers
- Field Production
- Container Production
- Assistant Mechanic

To find out more and apply, contact pat@bigelownurseries.com or jay@bigelownurseries.com.

GardenLarge: Crew Chief; Gardener

Pawling, NY in the Hudson Valley

A small, naturalistic landscape design/installation firm, we work on large, residential properties often in rural settings and have a nursery with a native plant focus. We're looking for a long-term relationship and your interest in:

- Expanding our native species palette
- Updating scientific nomenclature of our plant list
- Working with office software (Word, Excel, Filemaker, etc.)
- Marketing/social media/writing
- Drafting/rendering/graphics
- Photography/Photoshop

Email two business references, resume, and hourly rate requirements to info@gardenlarge.com.

Christie Dustman & Company: Business Development Manager

Greater Boston area

The Business Development Manager will assist the Principal in entrepreneurial activities of all sorts to generate and manage new business for CD & Company Inc.

To find our more and apply, contact Christie@christiedustman.com.

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.](#)

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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*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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