

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

May 2020

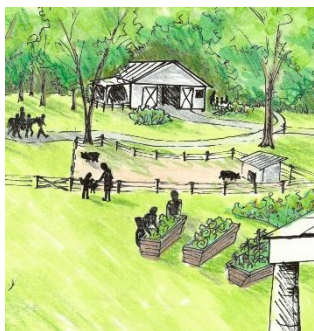


Advocating for ecological landscape practices
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

From the Editor

Weeks spent confined to our homes and yards has focused a spotlight on the landscape, and home gardens have taken on a new shine. In addition to enjoying their gardens as sources of sensory pleasure, people are discovering the calming effect of running fingers through rich soil and of planting a seed and watching it sprout, grow, and thrive. And if that soil and seed produce something to eat, the garden transforms into a source of both emotional and physical sustenance. Those edible plants are the topic for this month's authors as they consider edible elements of the landscape, both built and natural.

While waiting for seeds to sprout and fruit to ripen, we hope you'll take time to snap a few photos and submit them to the [Spotlight on Natives](#) photo contest. We've extended the deadline for submissions to June 30, so you've got plenty of time. I look forward to seeing photos of your favorite native plants - edible or not. *MPS*



Designing Gardens Accessible to All by Rachel Lindsay

An accessible landscape should provide not just access but varied experiences to all visitors. Ecological designers take the concept of universal design even further and consider how the landscape, especially public and participatory gardens, can benefit not just people of all abilities, but also wildlife, pollinators, soil microorganisms, and watersheds. [Read the article.](#)



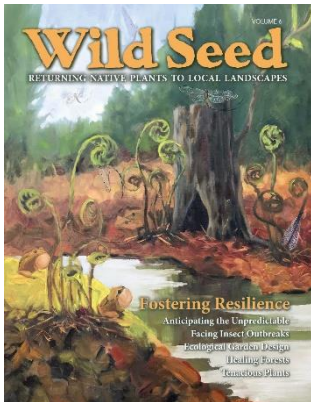
Planting Edible Native Species A Case Study from Massachusetts by Russ Cohen

A newly daylighted stream at Willard's Woods in Lexington, MA presented a serendipitous opportunity for introduction of edible native plants to the conservation area. At a double session focused on propagating and planting edible native plant species, Russ Cohen and co-presenter Georgia Hann included this 2017 project at ELA's 2020 Conference & Eco-Marketplace in March. Here, Russ follows up the conference session with a deeper dive into the Willard's Woods project. [Read the article.](#)



Member Question Edible Plantings for the Built Landscape Contributors: John Hemmerle and Rie Macchiarolo

Surrounded by uncertainty, more people are thinking about how their landscapes can provide food. Lawns are yielding to vegetable gardens, and suppliers of chicks have struggled to keep up with demand. For those who don't want to take on the responsibility of a new garden or chickens, we asked a couple of ELA members to share how they introduce edible plants into the landscape. [Read the article.](#)



Magazine Review Wild Seed, Volume 6 Published by Wild Seed Project (2020) Reviewed by Curtis Jirsa

Wild Seed is an annual magazine published by Wild Seed Project, a Maine-based nonprofit that advocates for using more native plants in our landscapes. This year's volume, like its predecessors, is a compelling and richly-illustrated collaboration between an impressive group of scholars, horticultural professionals, local artists, and other experts and enthusiasts. [Read the review.](#)

Eco-Answers from the Pros



Native Tree Versus Exotic Tree

Can you please explain to me the benefits of planting native trees over exotic trees? I thought having more exotic trees meant less risk for common diseases on native tree species; however, the process of naturalization indicates a focus on native tree planting over exotic. I assume exotic trees are more expensive to purchase than native ones. Is that true? [Read the Eco-Pro's answer.](#)

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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ELA News

Photo Contest Deadline Extended to June 30!

ELA's third Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest is in full bloom, and we're looking forward to viewing another incredible collection of your images. So that our photographers can include some of the later blooming spring natives, we've extended the deadline for submissions to June 30.

You can submit photos of native plants in garden settings (that may include some non-native species) or individual specimens. Entries will be accepted through June 30 at 5:00pm. First Prize Winners receive a one-year ELA Professional Membership (\$100 value). Photographers receiving Honorable Recognition will earn \$50 credit toward purchases at the ELA Bookstore. Winners will be announced in July. Find all the details [here](#).



Take a Walk in the Garden with ELA

Continue to enjoy this free Wednesday webinar series through July 1. Join ELA for a virtual walk in the garden complete with plant discussions and garden tips:

May 20 - [Spring Ephemerals](#)

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

June 3 - [Let Them Eat Flowers: The Gardens of Paris](#)

June 10 - [Landscaping with a Purpose - What's Diversity Got to Do with It?](#)

June 17 - [Spring to Summer: Native Plants that Bridge the Seasonal Divide](#)

June 24 - [Garden Ways: Professional Tips on Design and Plant Selection](#)

July 1 - [Specialist Bees](#)



Community Kindness - Tell Us Your Story

Tell us your story of kindness during COVID -19, and we'll include it in the newsletter. We are all in need of a little extra kindness and care. Email us at ela_new@verizon.net.

I helped a neighbor move her plants so that her fence could be repaired. I did all the digging, so it was social distancing at its best. Look at the drawing she gave me. It's amazing!

~Georgia Harris.



Virtual Coffee on Hold until July 17

Instead of calling in to volunteer coffee on third Wednesdays, enjoy the [Walk in the Garden](#) webinar series! We'll resume Virtual Coffee calls in July, but for now if you have ideas for programs, article topics, or speakers send an email to ela_new@verizon.net.



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Gleanings

Pandemic Revives Interest in Locally Grown Food

As COVID-19 confinement set in, many people returned to the basics: planting food and baking bread. No one expected the quarantine to have such a great effect on the availability of vegetable seeds and flour. The Sierra Club explores the start of the new urban food movement from its heyday to our current time as national interest in growing our own food increases. Read [The Rebirth of the Food Sovereignty Movement](#).



Movement Back to the Land in Vermont

On the subject of food and getting back to the land, Valerie Blakely profiles Jon Turner, a military veteran who stumbled into farming after making the difficult transition from military to civilian life. He and his wife currently farm 10 acres in Vermont. Read their inspiring story in [YaleEnvironment360](#).



Plant a Victory Garden

Sheltering in place has given people a chance to slow down and become interested in planting their own food. Here is a step-by-step guide to planting your own victory garden -

named for food gardens planted during the World Wars - in your own patch of earth. Learn more about planting your own Victory Garden in [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#).



Researchers Assess Food Production Potential within Urban Green Spaces

Researchers at The University of Sheffield, UK determined that hectares of untilled gardens, overlooked verges, and unused parkland could provide cities with tools to develop a more sustainable and secure food system. Read more in [Anthropocene Magazine](#).



'Murder Hornets' in the US

European honeybees and native bees are facing a vicious new threat in the northwestern US and Canada. Murder hornets, aka Asian giant hornets, (*Vespa mandarinia*) are an invasive insect from Japan that was found in the Northwest in early December. When they attack European honeybees, they can devastate an entire colony in hours. Read about US attempts to halt the insect in [New York Times](#). Watch honeybees fight back in [National Geographic](#). Also, [OhioState University](#) helps you distinguish murder hornets from look-alikes, including native species, such as the cicada killer (*Sphecius speciosus*), which though impressive in size is harmless. And find the Washington State University fact sheet [here](#).



Amazon Rainforest Emitting More CO2 than It Collects

Yale Environment 360 contributor Fred Pearce shares scientific findings from a new study in the Amazon Rainforest that show rainforests across the world have shifted from absorbing carbon to contributing greenhouse gases. This shift could put the temperature goals set in the Paris Agreement unobtainable and make the reforestation of the rainforests more pressing than previously thought. Read more at [YaleEnvironment 360](#).



'Hummingbird' Spy Creature Films Millions of Monarchs Taking Flight

The PBS nature series "Spy in the Wild" teamed up with John Downer Productions to film Monarch butterflies at their winter resting refuge in Mexico. Enjoy amazing footage of thousands of Monarchs as they warm their wings and take to the air. With two local butterfly defenders murdered this winter, it becomes even more urgent for the US to include Monarch butterflies on the Endangered Species Act. Learn more and watch the video at [Mongabay](#).



Stop and Notice Insects

Forced to slow down our lives, perhaps we can take time to notice the smaller world around us that has not been affected by the pandemic. Insects are busy as ever living their best lives. "The Joy of Discovering Insects" is Xerces Society's free weekly webinar Thursday at 10 am Pacific Time or catch the recorded version on their YouTube channel. On May 21, enjoy [Tickle Bees: Insights into the Life and Times of Ground Nesting Bees](#). After learning all about insects, you can Beesponsible and join the Bumble Bee Watch. Find more [here](#).



Ticks Aren't Social Distancing

While you're outside practicing social distancing and planting your veggie seeds or native plants, don't forget that the mild winter this year has produced a large crop of ticks! Read more about how to protect yourself in [ecoRI News](#).



More Activities for Yourself and Your Kids

Although some public spaces are opening up for visitors, there are still great online offerings for exploring nature. Here are a few you might check out
The [Atlanta Botanical Garden](#) offers a literal walk-through of the entire garden.

The [San Francisco Botanical Garden](#) has weekly yoga in the garden and weekly garden highlights.

A little farther afield, enjoy a virtual tour of the [Kew Gardens](#) in London or various gardens around [Paris](#).

Kids will enjoy activities proposed by [The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland](#) and learning about a variety of animals with [Creature Features](#) from Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg. Find a little fun from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which has introduced a new game called [Bird Song Hero](#). The game teaches your brain to recognize over 50 different bird songs. One silver lining of having to shelter in place is the significant reduction in motorized sounds which makes birds' songs appear louder and clearer than ever. Give the game a try and challenge your entire family to listen to nature a little more closely.



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

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

May

May 16&30 - [Native Plants for Winged Companions](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 9:30-11:00am ET.

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

May 19 - [Invasive Species Control Using Goats](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm.

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

May 26 - [What's Happening to My Plant](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 9:30-10:30am 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 28 - [Overview of Spotted Wing Drosophila Monitoring and Management](#) (webinar); 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.

June

June 3 - [Moss Gardening: Identification, Tricks, Techniques](#) - conducted as a live webinar; 9:30-11:00am.

June 3 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Let Them Eat Flowers: The Gardens of Paris](#); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

June 4 - [Spotted Lanternfly and Environmental DNA: Insect Monitoring of the Future](#); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

June 9 - [Green Industry and Homeowner Response to Spotted Lanternfly in Pennsylvania](#)(webinar); 12:00-1:00pm.

June 10 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Landscaping with a Purpose - What's Diversity Got to Do with It?](#) 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

June 13 - [Digging into Soil Ecology](#); Waltham, MA; 10:30am-2:30pm.

June 16 - [The Invasive Pest Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in Massachusetts - Biology, Monitoring, Management](#) (webinar); 12:00-1:00.

June 17 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Spring to Summer: Native Plants that Bridge the Seasonal Divide](#); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

June 23 - [Progress toward Controlling the Emerald Ash Borer with Biological Control](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

June 24 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Garden Ways: Professional Tips on Design and Plant Selection](#); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

June 30 - [Invasive Insects of Trees & Shrubs in Massachusetts](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.

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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