

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

June 2020



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

From the Editor

By planting native species in our gardens, we help fill in gaps of our local food web, especially for species that rely on a single plant to complete their life cycles. In this issue of the newsletter, we celebrate native plants and their place in the built landscape. The last few years, ELA has celebrated native plants by coordinating a day of touring home and public landscapes that feature native plants. Unable to ensure safe visits this year, we instead are offering photo visits of properties in the June and July issues of the newsletter. Enjoy our first group of "tours." Next month we'll also feature winners of [Spotlight on Natives](#) photo contest. You still have a couple of weeks to submit an entry!



As ELA approaches the end of the fiscal year on June 30, we look forward to the July 28 Annual Meeting, even though it will be without an educational program this year. ELA Members will gather online, instead of in person, but we will still be able to connect with each other and lay the groundwork for the coming year. Next week, check for your emailed invitation to Annual Meeting and your ballot. We hope you'll take a minute to vote for members of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors and to RSVP for Annual Meeting. We look forward to see you there. *MPS*



Why Aren't These Plants in Every Garden? Three Great Plants to Know and Grow

by Carolyn Summers

Throughout her career working with people, plants, and landscapes, author/designer and gardener extraordinaire Carolyn Summers has often been puzzled by the lack of interest in certain plants that she finds exceptionally useful. These plants bridge the gap that sometimes exists between what humans want and what wildlife needs. Carolyn introduces us to three underused plants that are a must-have for native gardeners. [Read the article.](#)



Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Wales, MA

Hosted by Dan Jaffe Wilder

Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary (NWS) is 8000 acres of forests, meadows, and wildlands, which is managed and maintained for the benefit of native plants and animals of New England. As the Sanctuary works on re-opening plans, this tour of the property is a wonderful respite from pandemic lockdown.

[Read the article.](#)

Dan presents ELA's first [Virtual Eco-tour](#) on July 9 at noon, providing a narrated walk through Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary.



Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Dennis, MA

Hosted by Kristen Andres

Take a walk on the wild side of Cape Cod. Located in Dennis, MA the Association to Preserve Cape Cod has built a wonderful garden to show residents of Cape Cod how beautiful and easy it is to plant and maintain a native garden. With veggie demonstration gardens and rain gardens, there really is a garden solution for every obstacle a gardener might face. [Read the article.](#)



Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Lincoln, MA

Hosted by Robin Wilkerson

Over thirty years in the making, this series of home gardens pays tribute to native plants. Lovingly created by a homeowner who is a native plant enthusiast, an accomplished gardener, and volunteer at the Garden in the Woods, this beautiful, mature landscape includes mixed perennial borders, a large vegetable garden, and a delightful woodland garden that encompasses an acre of native plants. A visit to this garden will inspire even the seasoned gardener with surprises. [Read the article.](#)



Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Newton, MA

Hosted by Sally Muspratt

This native plant installation provides a welcome respite for residents and guests at the Coleman House. The quiet woodland walk through the lovely, tall pines links the bright annual plantings of the parking lot and Memorial Garden with the contrasting experience of an enhanced natural woodland and provides an opportunity for safe, gentle exercise in the open air for the elderly residents. [Read the article.](#)



Celebrating Natives Garden Tour - Needham, MA

Hosted by Marie Chieppo

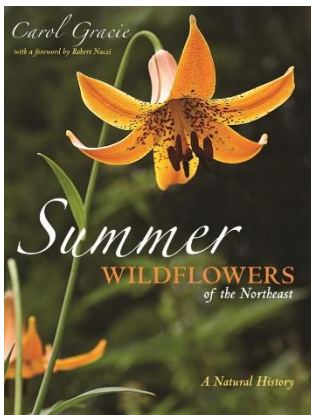
Avery Park, a busy commuter rail station park becomes a native plant oasis for people and pollinators alike. Follow Needham based landscape designer Marie Chieppo's journey through a barren weed-infested plot to a popular garden gathering spot that is doing double duty during the COVID pandemic as a great place to socialize while staying six feet apart. [Read the article.](#)



Planting Native Shade Trees

by Julia Frederick

Shade trees are more important than ever as we face rapid development and suburban sprawl, deforestation, and desertification. These gentle giants help combat rising temperatures, habitat loss and declining air and water quality. Additionally, native canopy trees provide abundant food and shelter for insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals. [Read the article.](#)



Book Review

Summer Wildflowers of the Northeast

Written by Carol Gracie, Princeton University Press (2020)

Reviewed by Maureen Sundberg

Carol Gracie's admiration and affection for the flowers she researches and photographs is evident on every page of her new book *Summer Wildflowers of the Northeast*. Those familiar with the thoughtfully detailed life histories of plants in Gracie's *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast* will recognize in this companion volume her wide-ranging mix of the natural history of species and spectacular photography. [Read the review.](#)

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ELA News

Inside ELA

If you've been to an ELA event, you know that besides bringing in great speakers, we gather great audiences. Everyone in the room - not just on the stage - is an innovator, an idealist, and a practical problem-solver. As a result, there is no better place to catch up with friends and colleagues, to be reminded that we are part of a broader movement, and to learn from one another.

As ELA adapts to a world shaped by COVID-19, we want to make sure that we continue to create events that are exciting, welcoming, and interactive.

To that end, we are developing new online formats for our fall and winter events, including a platform that enables participants to move in and out of breakout rooms, to see who else is attending, to send messages to other participants, and to organize impromptu gatherings of people with shared interests. Working with our speakers, exhibitors, and members, we will refine our use of these online tools to make sure that we are making good use of participants' time.

As we explore this new medium, we welcome your thoughts. We look forward to sharing more information on each event as plans are finalized. And as always, we are grateful for your support and for the community that we're a part of.

Upcoming ELA Workshops & Conferences:

Advanced Workshops with Patrick Cullina, [August 5](#) or [August 12](#), 2020
Season's End Summit, October 29, 2020
Mid-Atlantic Conference, November 12, 2020
Ecological Plant Conference, December 4, 2020
Annual Conference and Eco-Marketplace, TBD

Please also note that ELA has been approved to provide LA CES and other continuing education credit for online events.

Toby Wolf, PLA
Present, Board of Directors



Photo Contest Ends 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

A few of our free Wednesday webinars remain. If you haven't yet done so, please join ELA for a virtual walk in the garden complete with plant discussions and garden tips:

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 make flower arrangements from my garden flowers and deliver them to people's doorsteps, ring the bell and step away. I have thus far made 56 this season. I use vases, baskets, mugs, mason jars or anything I can get my hands on from tag sales and the like. I think my flowers bring a little joy at a difficult time. ~ **Carolyn Aubin, CT**

This spring, it seems there's more time for two healthy habits: gardening and walks around the neighborhood. Instead of weeding out my happily-spreading perennials this year, I potted them up and set them out on a makeshift table for passersby to take home. Not only did my happy plants find homes, but I ended up connecting with several neighbors I'd never met before - now I know their names (until I have to ask again!) and we have something to chat about when we bump into each other next. Plants have a way of setting the groundwork for new friendships. ~ **Judy Beaudette, WA**



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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The Connecticut College Arboretum's diverse 750 acres include the landscaped grounds of the College campus as well as the surrounding plant collections and natural areas. The Native Plant Collection features woody plants and wildflowers indigenous to eastern North America. The Arboretum is open, free of charge, every day from dawn to dusk.



**Connecticut
College
Arboretum**

Gleanings

COVID Pushes Move to Green Recovery

While the cost in human lives and livelihood is severe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the air we breathe is literally cleaner than it has been in decades. Over half the human population lives in cities with dangerously poor air quality and many countries across the world including Germany are using this time to push through environmental reforms to move to a new green economy. [Read more here.](#)



Fireflies, Magical Insects of Summer

Fireflies evoke a sense of magical nostalgia for a simpler time of summer nights hoping to be the first person to spot a firefly in the garden. Learn how to protect and enjoy these fascinating creatures with a handy [Firefly Guide from Xerces Society.](#)



Migrating Eco-Murals

California Highway 1 between Monterey and San Francisco is one of the most scenic highways in the US, except for a stretch in North Monterey that is congested with ugly billboards. While commuting from San Francisco to Monterey, artist Jane Kim came up with the idea to create billboards that educated the public on ecosystems and beauty that surrounds them. Kim and her husband Thayer Walker founded Ink Dwell studio and migrating murals. [Read their story.](#)



Small Family Forests to Help Mitigate Climate Change

As efforts grow to store more CO2 emissions in forests, one sector has been overlooked - small, family-owned woodlands, which comprise 38 percent of U.S. forests. Now, a major conservation initiative is aiming to help these owners manage their lands for maximum carbon storage. In April, the environmental nonprofits The Nature Conservancy (TNC), American Forest Foundation (AFF), and Vermont Land Trust announced two new programsto funnel funds to small landowners and help them grow healthier forests. Read more in [Yale Environment360.](#)



Deadly Mosquito-Borne Illness Is Brewing in the Northeast

Everyone is focused on COVID-19 this summer, but EEE kills almost half of its victims and is a growing problem in the Northeast. The summer and fall of 2019 saw recommendations to shelter indoors and avoid certain activities at dawn and dusk. Was last year an outlier or a preview of changes due to a warming climate? Read more in [OneZero.](#)



Recreate Responsibly

We all want to get beyond our own backyards and balconies. With states opening up more each week, let's not forget to be careful out there. Here's a list of practical things you can do to ensure your health and safety while enjoying the great outdoors. [Read more.](#)



The Joys of Birding

As we have been locked down in our houses over the last months, ebirder websites have exploded with a renewed interest in backyard bird-watching. Learn the value of citizen scientists' tallying the bird species they see on their own properties. [Read more from the Cornell Lab.](#)



Everything You Want to Know About Insects and More!!

The InsectXaminer short video series hopes to increase the visibility of the beautiful world of insects, even those we consider to be pests in our managed landscapes. Join UMass

Extension to observe these incredible organisms and look into a world that, while it happens all around us, sometimes goes unseen! [Read more at UMass Extension.](#)



Good News for Pawtuxet River

The Pawtuxet River in Rhode Island is coming clean. After a complicated history, this small 12-mile-long river is seeing significant drops in phosphorus levels due to improving wastewater treatment, mitigating stormwater, and planting native species streamside. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).



In Defense of Rare Plants

David Gregg, executive director of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, is worried that we are not doing enough to protect and save native wild species. Find out about his efforts (in collaboration with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Native Plant Trust) to propagate and transplant them into the wild to augment native populations. Read more in [ecoRI News](#).



Are Natural Gas Leaks Killing our Trees?

Natural gas leaks from underground pipelines are killing trees in densely populated urban environments, a new study suggests, adding to concerns over such leaks fueling climate change and explosion hazards. A study in Chelsea, MA finds dead or dying trees were 30 times more likely to be exposed to methane surrounding their roots. Read more in [Inside Climate News](#)



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

June

- 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 17 - [Invasive Species: Spotted Lanternfly](#) (webinar); 7:00-8:30pm ET.
- June 17 - [Mt. Cuba Center re-opens](#)
- June 18 - [Gardening for Invertebrates](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.
- June 20 - [Water Garden Creations](#) (webinar); 9:30-11:00am 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 27 - [Chanticleer Re-opens to General Public](#)
- June 30 - [Invasive Insects of Trees & Shrubs in Massachusetts](#) (webinar); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.
- June 30 - [Buzzworthy: Conserving Bumble Bees in Our Natural Areas](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

July

- July 1 **A Walk in the Garden**→[Specialist Bees](#); 12:00noon-1:00pm ET.
- July 9 **ELA Virtual Eco-tour**→[Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.
- July 11 [Garden Conservatory Open Days](#); check the website for details
- July 16 **ELA Class**→[Soil: The Solution Beneath Our Feet](#); Framingham, MA; 10:30am-1:30pm.
- July 15 - [Gardening with Native Plants: Learn from our Mistakes...and our Successes!](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

July 18 **ELA Class**→[Structural Plant Combinations](#); Framingham, MA;10:30am-1:30pm.

August

August 5 **ELA Workshop**→[Advanced Design Workshop with Patrick Cullina](#); 8:30am-5:00pm.

August 12 **ELA Workshop**→[Advanced Design Workshop with Patrick Cullina](#); 8:30am-5:00pm.

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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